

NDAY, MAY 17, 1994

Japanese don't
ust bureaucrats

OKYO (R) — The Japanese government is not planning to send a survey team to the Middle East, a survey published by the Japanese government said. The survey, which was conducted last week, found that the Japanese government's image in the Middle East is not as good as it should be. The survey also found that the Japanese government's image in the Middle East is not as good as it should be.

Japanese child
lone bullying
outline

OKYO (R) — A survey conducted by the Japanese government found that the number of children who are bullied in Japan has increased in recent years. The survey found that the number of children who are bullied in Japan has increased in recent years.

Hundreds of
children marry
in Indian state

NEW DELHI (R) — Hundreds of children in a state in India have been married off in a tradition that is being challenged by the government. The government is trying to stop the practice of child marriage.

Cabinet to set up committees to negotiate with PLO
AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to set up a ministerial committee to hold talks with the Palestinian leadership on the issues that should be settled soon between the two sides, Minister of State for the Prime Ministry Affairs and Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Monday. Dr. Anani said the talks aim to organise the process of economic exchanges between Jordan and the Palestinians under two main facts: the economic cooperation agreement signed between the two sides Jan. 17, and the developments taking place on ground in Jericho and Gaza Strip after new institutional Palestinian structures are coming into existence. Dr. Anani said in a panel broadcast Monday evening by Jordan Television, and in which director of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Economic Department Ahmad Qurei and economic expert Tayseer Abdul Jabbar participated, that the two sides should draft flexible and dynamic working plans capable of dealing with the swift changes taking place on the Palestinian arena.

Volume 18 Number 5614

AMMAN TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1994, THU AL HJJEH 6, 1414

AMSTERDAM
THE ONLY DAILY AND NONSTOP FLIGHT
AT MOST CONVENIENT TIMES
WITH ADEQUATE SPACE FOR CARGO
ROYAL JORDANIAN
YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان نيوز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراية

Christopher carries Syrian reaction to Israel but meeting with Rabin postponed

Damascus insists on 'reasonable' timetable for pullout from the Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Tel Aviv on Monday with reactions from Syria to Israel's peace package after Damascus called for a "reasonable" withdrawal timetable from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Assad and Mr. Christopher had agreed to hold further talks and the secretary was expected to return to Syria.

The secretary held two rounds of talks with Mr. Sharaa, interspersed by consultations with his advisors. Straight after arrival on Sunday, he held a four-hour meeting with President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Christopher is trying to force a Syrian-Israeli accord on the Golan, which has been the stumbling block in negotiations between the two sides since the Middle East peace process was launched in Madrid in December 1991.

A Western diplomat said Syria wanted an Israeli withdrawal to be completed within three years, while Israel is offering a phased pullout over five to eight years, with the initial return of three Druze Arab villages on the plateau.

**Al Hassan meets
Tunisian counterpart**

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sazan Al Hassan Monday met with his Tunisian counterpart Al Habib Ben Yahya and reviewed with him bilateral relations and means of enhancing them.

**Algeria condemns
34 Islamists to death**

TUNIS (R) — Two Algerian courts have sentenced 34 Muslim fundamentalists to death in one day, Algeria's official and independent media said on Monday.

**More Palestinian
police to leave Iraq**

BAGHDAD (R) — A contingent of 280 Palestinian police is ready to leave for Jordan to join counterparts in the self-rule enclave of Jericho, a Palestinian embassy source said Monday.

**Rwandan rebels
cut government off
from capital**

NAIROBI (AFP) — Rwandan rebels took control Monday of part of the road leading from the capital Kigali to Gitarama, a town to the southwest where the interim government has taken refuge, rebel radio said.

North Yemen claims fall of south's main air base, as fighting spreads

SANAA (Agencies) — Northern troops Monday said they captured the south's main air base of Al Anad as Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered southern leaders to either surrender or flee the country to end the civil war.

Mr. Saleh's troops also opened a new front in the eastern oil province of Shabwa, as the south, facing a siege of its Aden stronghold, renewed calls for a ceasefire.

Al Anad, which controls a key highway leading to the port city, fell to the northern army, said the official news agency SABA, run by the north.

A spokesman on Aden television, meanwhile, insisted southern forces had inflicted heavy losses on the assailants on all fronts, including the north, and forced their retreat.

Palestinians take over nerve centre of occupation, Israel pledges to meet deadline

GAZA (R) — Israeli soldiers slipped out of Gaza Central Prison before dawn on Monday, handing over what had been the nerve centre of Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip to a detachment of Palestinian police.

By midday all trace of them was fast disappearing. Palestinian policemen, who replaced them, were billeted in empty offices, hundreds of residents thronged outside hoping to find relatives among the newly arrived police, and former prisoners wandered round vacant cells where they had been tortured.

Outside, dozens of street vendors set up stalls selling snacks and soft drinks to the crowds of Gazans who flocked to see the prison in Palestinian hands, and to look for relatives among the newly arrived police.

Israel had already transferred Palestinian prisoners to other jails and many of the buildings were already empty. Israel has emptied most of its bases in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the past week. The handover is due to be completed by Wednesday.

Arafat's bid to form strong self-rule authority gets support from opponents

AMMAN — Even though Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has filled most of the slots for a new Palestinian authority to run the autonomous areas of Jericho and Gaza, he is still facing difficulties recruiting influential figures from the occupied territories.

Former chief negotiator Haidar Abdul Shaif from Gaza and Abdul Hafiz Al Ashhab, from Hebron, have declined a new offer by the PLO leadership to take part in the 24-member Palestinian authority. Both have reportedly criticised the agreements reached with Israel and demanded reforms in the organisation.

But Mr. Arafat, who appears keen to include figures representing trends other than his own Fateh faction and other loyalists, is said to have been approaching critics of the peace agreement with Israel in the hope of achieving a consensus over the structure of the authority.

Another important independent critic of the PLO's handling of negotiations with Israel, Hanan Ashrawi, has declined participation 48 hours after the organisation named her to the list of members of the new authority.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday shakes hands with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taber Al Masri before meeting with heads of Parliamentary blocks and committees (Petra photo)

King meets deputies; urges constructive dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday stressed that Jordan's decision to maintain its democratisation process was final, emphasising that the Kingdom, despite the current situation in the Arab World, insists on continuing the process "because it is linked to the Arab people's dignity, freedom and right to participate in building their present and making their future."

The King also underscored the need to establish democratic norms and the basis of constructive dialogue which would "enrich the march and enable it to achieve its noble goals."

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid and the King's advisers.

Settlers, soldiers shoot 16 Palestinians in Hebron

HEBRON (Agencies) — Israeli settlers and troops shot and wounded 16 Palestinians in the mosque massacre town of Hebron on Monday in full view of international observers.

Kadoumi expected in Amman to sign economic deal

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Foreign Affairs Department Farouk Kadoumi is expected to arrive in Amman after Al Adha holiday to discuss next week, and probably sign "a plan of action" on Jordanian economic cooperation reached here last week.

The committee will also enable the Palestinian authority to coordinate with the CBJ regarding banks in areas that still fall under Israeli jurisdiction, where the CBJ will still be the monetary authority in terms of licensing banks.

Court finds Jordan Times guilty of violating press law

Newspaper to appeal verdict

By Nermeen Murad and Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporters
AMMAN — The Editor-in-Chief of the Jordan Times, George Hawatmeh and reporter Sana Atiyeh, were found guilty Monday of violating two articles of the Press and Publications Law and were ordered to pay fines amounting to JD 600 in addition to court costs.

The first article stipulates that publications are forbidden to print "news items, drawings or commentaries disparaging the armed forces or the security apparatus." Article 42 forbids "publishing transcripts of any case before the final verdict, except with court permission."

Iran says Saudi police deploy around haj HQ

NOCOSIA (Agencies) Iran said Saudi Arabia had deployed police around its pilgrimage (haj) headquarters in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, where Iranian pilgrims plan to hold a political rally in defiance of a Saudi ban.

"With only three days left for the annual rally against disbelievers in this holy city, the Saudi police have deployed two companies (of policemen) around the headquarters of the representative of the leader of the Islamic Revolution," the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said.

Iran's charge could not be confirmed. Saudi Arabia usually deploys its police in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina during the haj, which attracts millions of Muslims every year.

Iran has also declared May 15 a day of solidarity with Bosnian Muslims for pilgrims gathered in Saudi Arabia and said donations would be collected from pilgrims.

But IRNA said Saudi Arabia's Minister for Pilgrimage Affairs and Endowments Mahmoud Ibn Mohammad Safar told Iranians not to collect money from other pilgrims for Bosnia.

"Saudi security officials will ban such efforts," IRNA quoted Mr. Safar as saying in a note to Iran's haj officials.

Riyadh is a keen sup-

porter of Bosnian Muslims but has long said that the pilgrimage, which this year reaches its climax on May 20, is an occasion for worship and not political activity.

Saudi Arabia's Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz reiterated last week the kingdom would enforce a ban on all political activities by pilgrims.

But Hajatoleislam Mohammad Mohammadi Rayshahri, Iran's top representative at the haj, said Iranian pilgrims would hold a rally in Mecca Tuesday denouncing what they see as Islam's enemies, despite the Saudi ban.

IRNA's report from Mecca said Saudi police "have been stationed with a water cannon and two armoured cars (outside the Iranian headquarters)." The agency said police had been posted in a school opposite the headquarters and two cameras installed on a building overlooking it. Police were keeping close watch on pilgrims throughout Mecca, even at prayers, IRNA said.

The police also prevented cars belonging to Iranian pilgrims and organisers from entering the camp's parking lot, "even those with diplomatic licence plates," IRNA said.

The siege followed the holding of a rally in the pilgrimage quarter in solidarity with the Muslim people in Bosnia late Sunday, it said.

IRNA said that the Saudi police had taken down several Iranian flags placed on the roof of the pilgrimage quarter.

On Sunday, an Iranian religious organisation urged all Muslims making the pilgrimage in Mecca to defy a Saudi ban and take part in the demonstration.

"We call on all pilgrims, especially politically-aware Iranians, to take part in the demonstration as in previous years to foil the plots of enemies of Islam," the Islamic Propagation Organisation said in a statement.

The Mecca gathering is the "best opportunity and Mecca the best place for Muslims to express their hatred of the infidels, notably the United States and Israel," it added.

Mr. Reysahri has told the pilgrims that holding the rally was a "religious must" and that everyone should participate.

More than 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed at the 1987 haj when Saudi security forces clashed with an Iranian-led rally chanting slogans against the United States and Israel.

The bloodshed led to a break in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and a three-year Iranian boycott of the haj.



SINGING WITH CHILDREN: A Palestinian officer sings a national song with Palestinian children during a visit of Palestinian police officers to the school in the Rafah camp, the Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Egypt lawyers strike over dead colleague

CAIRO (R) — Thousands of Egyptian lawyers brought courts to a standstill with a one-day strike to demand the prosecution of the policemen they say tortured a Muslim fundamentalist lawyer to death last month.

The government says the lawyer, Abdul Harith Madani, 32, fell ill soon after arrest and then died of natural causes.

The Egyptian Bar Association said 90 per cent of judges across the country had cancelled their sessions in response to an appeal from the association, which has 140,000 members.

At the High Court complex in Cairo, five courts were empty at mid-morning, when they would normally be full, and court ushers said lawyers had responded to the strike call.

Black banners hung from the association's headquarters in Cairo urging "vengeance for the blood of the martyr Abdul Harith". Police vans surrounded the building.

Mr. Madani is the most prominent person to die soon after arrest since the Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) began a campaign of violence against the government more than two years ago.

The case has incensed the Islamic-dominated Bar Association, which is now planning a march on the presidency Tuesday. Human rights organisations have also protested.

On Saturday the Interior Ministry said Mr. Madani had an attack of asthma and fainted on April 26 within

hours of his arrest, while police were taking him to search a house in Cairo. It said he died in hospital of lung failure the next day.

But the Bar Association dismissed the explanation, saying he was in good health and that the medical report mentioned wounds on his body. It said the police did not inform Mr. Madani's family of his death until May 5, eight days after police says he died.

The association described the ministry's explanation as "a feeble statement which falsifies the facts in a clear attempt to dissipate the lawyers' anger."

The authorities have withheld the forensic report and refused to allow a second autopsy on the body, which has since been buried at Mr. Madani's hometown in southern Egypt.

But Bar Association official Khaled Badawi said that in private contacts the public prosecutor's office said it was still investigating the officers who arrested Mr. Madani.

The Interior Ministry statement Saturday described Mr. Madani as a "terrorist" and said he had helped the Gamaa by acting as a messenger for Gamaa leaders in prison and as a conduit for money sent to the organisation from abroad.

It said that partly as a result of information obtained from Mr. Madani's premises the police have arrested 98 leading Gamaa members over the past

three weeks.

But it did not name any of them and lawyers close to the Gamaa said they did not seem to include anyone significant.

"It's purely for propaganda," said lawyer Montasser Al Zayat.

Cairo newspapers Sunday published photographs of seven men wanted for acts of violence, including Rifaat Zeidan, said to be the leader of the Gamaa military wing in southern Egypt.

The level of violence appeared to be falling earlier this month in the south, the main theatre of Gamaa operations, but gunmen thought to be Gamaa members have killed four policemen there in the last three days.

The Gamaa has also resumed its public relations offensive through faxes sent to international news agencies.

A faxed statement Sunday thanked the Bar Association for its campaign on behalf of Mr. Madani.

"The martyr Abdul Harith Madani committed no crime for which to be detained, let alone murdered, other than defending the rights of detainees from the Egyptian people and members of the Gamaa Al Islamiyah," it said.

"By carrying out this loathsome crime, the Egyptian regime has proved the Gamaa correct in what it has done to confront the regime, which has flouted all moral conventions," it added.

Mutiny on the dhow on Friday the 13th

ON BOARD THE FATAH AL-RAHMAN (R) — After a 28-hour sail to Aden under a blazing sun in a cramped dhow whose only toilet was a hole in the stern, six foreign reporters were anxious to get ashore to a country torn by civil war.

"There is a war in this country... we can't go in after dark... they will kill us all," screamed the dhow's captain, Mohammad Al Haj, in Arabic.

Arriving in Aden from Djibouti at sunset on Friday the 13th, the elderly captain and his crew refused to enter the port until the following morning, saying he could be fined \$20,000.

"Are you crazy? I'm not spending another night on this..." an Italian journalist said.

A huge row followed with handwaving and screaming in Arabic, English, French, Italian and Somali.

Aden Port officials finally came out of the dark on a small launch lured by light signals from the wooden dhow.

The journalists — four men and two women — were dying to leave the dhow, whose toilet was just a hole at the end of the vessel which one kneels in, hidden by a waist-high wooden plank.

"Stop waving those lights like this," said one journalist. "There are two blackened military craft out there... this is a state of war."

Yemeni immigration, customs, military and probably intelligence officials, armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, boarded the vessel, separated the crew from the journalists and started checking passports with flashlights.

Luckily Yemen's ambassador in Djibouti, a southerner, had phoned ahead to inform officials in the former South Yemen that we were on our way to Aden to cover the civil war between north and south which flared up on May 4 after four years of unity.

The courteous Yemeni officials did not allow the dhow into port but helped the journalists into their launch along with our baggage, computers, picture transmitters and other equipment.

After being told the trip from Djibouti would take 14 hours at the most, we quickly consumed our limited supplies as we approached Aden at sunset, having rationed our water and food for the previous 12 hours.

"Although forced upon us, we all now have excellent Cote d'Azur tans," said one reporter who was asked if he enjoyed anything about the trip.

The ordeal, which also involved 10 Somali crewmen and a radio operator, started Wednesday and ended Friday.

"I guess Friday the 13th is not the right day to do this," another journalist said.

After an hour at sea Wednesday evening, the vessel's drive shaft broke down so we chugged back to Djibouti to haggle over the price and when to resume the trip and to ask special permission to leave the port for a hotel.

An earlier fight was resolved when, fearing trouble at sea, we managed to rent a ship-to-shore broadcast radio along with its Somali operator. The Somali language is the most commonly used by land-based radio operators along the coast.

"They can just cut our throats at sea and take all our money," said a suspicious journalist of a booty of at least \$25,000 while trying to convince a colleague to buy a couple of diving daggers. In the end, the majority voted against it.

We set off again Thursday after the dhow was fixed by an Italian who overcharged us for the work.

An hour later, the dhow's crew took turns performing the Muslim prayer as we left Djibouti Port.

Then out came the kat, a popular narcotic leaf which users stuff between cheek and jaw.

Pointing to his head, crewman Saad Mohammad gestured that the kat was necessary for him to operate the vessel.

Other than its human cargo, the vessel was carrying sugar and rice sacks which the captain claimed he had bought in Djibouti for sale in Somalia.

But the sacks appeared to be from relief supply stocks sent by the West to fight famine in the Horn of Africa.

Despite denials by the crew, we lost our way in the middle of the night as we crossed from Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, prolonging an already unpleasant experience.

At least four of the journalists planned to leave Aden where the airport has been bombed for Djibouti Sunday, the same way they came.

Sudan rebels, government open peace talks

NAIROBI (AFP) — Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist military government and mainly Christian southern rebels opened a new round of Kenyan-mediated peace talks in Nairobi Monday, Kenyan officials said.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka chaired the closed-door meeting between officials of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the government, aimed at ending a conflict more than a decade old.

Khartoum's delegation, led by parliamentary speaker Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, was to meet members of the SPLA's two rival factions in the latest of many negotiations organised by the six-member regional group, the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD).

But only a representative of the breakaway SPLA-United faction, Richard Mulla, showed up for the closed-door talks at the Kenyan Foreign Ministry Monday morning, officials said.

It was not immediately clear who was representing the mainstream rebel group led by SPLA founder John Garang, which took up arms to free the mainly Christian and animist south from Islamic domination.

by the Arab north 11 years ago.

Khartoum has taken advantage of a 1991 split in the rebel movement along tribal lines to recapture a string of garrison towns it had lost to the SPLA in the vast swamplands and savannah of the undeveloped south.

But a major government offensive launched at the end of last year seems to have become bogged down.

Khartoum has taken advantage of a 1991 split in the rebel movement along tribal lines to recapture a string of garrison towns it had lost to the SPLA in the vast swamplands and savannah of the undeveloped south.

But a major government offensive launched at the end of last year seems to have become bogged down.

Khartoum has taken advantage of a 1991 split in the rebel movement along tribal lines to recapture a string of garrison towns it had lost to the SPLA in the vast swamplands and savannah of the undeveloped south.

But a major government offensive launched at the end of last year seems to have become bogged down.

12 hurt in Turkish cinema blast

ANKARA (AFP) — A bomb attack Sunday on a cinema wounded 12 people, including six soldiers, in Elazig, south-eastern Turkey, the Anatolia News Agency reported. A Russian-made explosive device was thrown inside the cinema premises where 140 people were watching a film, the agency said. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Police launched a search operation in the town to find the bombers. Three people were meanwhile wounded in an attack at Adana, some 110 kilometres (70 miles) from the Syrian border. It was not known who was behind the blast.

Why Palestinian leaders are reluctant to join authority?

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nominees for the new Palestinian self-rule authority in Jericho and Gaza, though enthusiastic about the future are reluctant to assume the task, a PLO official said Monday.

"It is a difficult responsibility that requires a lot of work in light of the uncertainty of the situation in the self-rule areas," said the official who asked not to be named.

He added that the reluctance of some nominees to accept offers by the PLO to assume positions of authority in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho was understandable as the task of members of the new Palestinian authority is "nothing to be envied for."

Asaad Abdul Rahman, who was offered a position in the new Palestinian authority, told the Jordan Times that he has not yet made up his mind on whether or not to accept the offer.

"There is a very thin line between the enthusiasm I feel about the offer and the poli-

tical suicide I might be committing if I do accept," Dr. Abdul Rahman, who currently heads the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation said.

He said fear of political suicide stems from three "legitimate" reasons; the first was the "not-so-promising Israeli attitude."

"The Palestinian right to self determination does not seem to be a real concern for the Israelis and there are no guarantees that it will ever be," he explained.

The second reason for Dr. Abdul Rahman's reservations is his "lack of confidence in the ability of Western and international communities to convince Israel to ease the pressure off the Palestinians and help them accommodate their needs in the coming stage."

"Last but not least," he added, "I have my doubts about the Palestinians' competence in managing, organising and running the self-rule areas in a manner that would meet the expectations of people in the occupied territories."

Dr. Abdul Rahman said

that he realised that a decision on his part should be taken soon, but that before he makes any decision on the matter, he has to make "a clear cut evaluation of the whole situation."

Commenting on the reluctance of other Palestinians leaders to be part of the new Palestinian authority, Ibrahim Quba'a, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said that in many cases, personal interests rise above national ones. He said that it was every Palestinian's duty to participate in forming and serving the new authority.

"All competent politicians should help found the new authority, it is their duty towards their country," Mr. Quba'a said. Asked whether he would accept such an offer, he said that there were more qualified politicians for the job than he was, but that he will be willing to accept a counselling position in the authority.

Mr. Quba'a added that despite the refusal of very few people to assume leading positions in the future au-

thority, there are unqualified Palestinians seeking high power positions.

"I would suggest the opening of training centres for our unqualified young men who will eventually take over."

He said that to ensure a solid base for a competent authority, a scientific approach should be adopted.

"We can train and teach our people the science of management of utilities exactly like we trained the police forces," he added.

Saleh Ra'fat, a member of the Palestinian Democratic Union (FIDA) said that some leading Palestinians had their political reasons for turning down the offer of participating in the new Palestinian self-rule authority. One such leader, according to Mr. Ra'fat, is Haidar Abdul Shafi, who led the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington talks with Israel.

"He (Dr. Abdul Shafi) disagrees with Yasser Arafat's ruling methods," Mr. Ra'fat said.

FIDA has opposed the self-rule agreement signed in Cairo in May 4 called on the

Palestinian people to strive to eliminate the "restrictions imposed on them by the agreement," Mr. Ra'fat said.

He added that being part of the new Palestinian authority was one medium to do so and that they (FIDA) would like to see more of their members nominated for leading positions in the new authority.

Two FIDA officials, Yasser Abd Rabbo and Azmi Shuabli, have been nominated for the new authority," but we are working on including at least one more FIDA official," Mr. Ra'fat said.

He said that he "respected" Hanan Ashrawi's decision to decline the appointment in the new authority in order to devote herself and her efforts to the Independent Palestinian Commission for Human Rights, to which she was recently elected as commissioner.

"It is only natural for Ms. Ashrawi to refuse the offer, for she has chosen the duty of monitoring the performance of the new authority," said Mr. Ra'fat.

Algerian court sentences 17 Islamists to death

TUNIS (R) — An Algerian court sentenced 17 Muslim fundamentalists to death for attempted murder of a police officer and for armed attacks, the official Algerian News Agency (APS) said.

Fourteen of the condemned men were still on the run and were tried in their absence by Algiers Special Court, one of three set up by decree in late 1992 to battle political violence which officials blame on Islamists.

At least 450 fundamentalists have been condemned to death by ordinary, special and military courts since early 1992 after violence erupted when the army-backed authorities cancelled a general election in which the Islamists had taken a huge lead.

Algeria has executed 26 condemned men while a score of others have had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi parties urge Kurds to stop fighting

CAIRO (R) — Representatives of seven Iraqi opposition parties have appealed to the two main Iraqi Kurdish leaders to stop their forces fighting. Clashes broke out in Iraqi Kurdistan earlier this month between members of the two largest Kurdish parties — the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), led by Massoud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani. The opposition leaders, in a statement faxed from London, said the fighting had spread to many of the towns and villages of Kurdistan. An unspecified number of fighters and civilians had been killed or wounded, they added. They called on the KDP, the PUK and other groups to investigate the reasons for the outbreak of fighting and to make sure fighting did not break out again. The leaders included representatives of the two Kurdish parties, one other Kurdish parties and of four other non-Kurdish groups. They met in London Wednesday and again Saturday.

Tehran could break ties with London

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran could break ties with Britain if London failed to provide a convincing explanation over the alleged bugging of the Iranian embassy, MP Majid Naderi said Monday. Tehran said last Wednesday that a listening device had been found late April inside a wall at the Iranian embassy in London. Britain has refused to comment on the affair. Mr. Naderi, a member of parliament's Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, told Al-Bas newspaper there was a possibility "of any kind of conflict" with London, but that the National Security Council would have to give its opinion first. "If the British government does not come up with a convincing explanation over the spying, a break in relations is possible," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Envoy Special
18:00 News in French
19:15 Grands Galops
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Stop by Step
21:00 Mopla Over Miami
21:30 News in English
22:30 The Cape Rebel
23:10 The Second Half

PRAYER TIMES

04:04 Fajr
05:33 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:30 Maghrib
20:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tel. 771331

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tel. 77261

ST. EPHRAIM CHURCH

Tel. 771751

AMMAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Tel. 652526

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tel. 624328

GERMAN-SPEAKING EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION

Tel. 684195

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Tel. 654922

CHURCH OF NAZARETH

Tel. 675491

THE EVANGELICAL LOCAL CHURCH IN AMMAN

Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot with winds northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 14/31
Aqaba 20/25
Dorset 12/33
Jordan Valley 19/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 15 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halesa 819220
Dr. Jamil Maraga 781499
Dr. Shalabi Abu Zayed 757982
Dr. Mohammad Al Nakawi 819213
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairoth pharmacy 629672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shuciani pharmacy 637660
Nairoth pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847652

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hila 279773
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziyad Z'aiter (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 715121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 995390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Oncology Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53300

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813812/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Al-Jalil Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhus, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
St. Michael's Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Munther Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Home News



MEETING: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday chairs a meeting of the National Population Commission at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF). Princess Basma expressed pride in the achievements of the commission, stressing that it actively contributes to the implementation of social and economic development plans through the information supplies to decision-makers. Con Chairman Khaleel Ghazawi, who

JEA moves ahead with conversion plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafah Monday briefed Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on the steps being taken to convert the JEA from an autonomous authority into a commercial entity operating under the Companies Law.

On March 8, the JEA announced that ministerial committee was preparing to undertake the transition in line with a recommendation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The JEA, he said, has also formulated terms of reference for local and international consultancy firms to help evaluate the electricity authority's assets before the transformation procedures can start. A select group of bidders will be invited to compete for the evaluation process, said Mr. Arafah.

The JEA conversion is expected to avert routine which currently impedes the authority's functions and enable the new entity to be more competitive and engage other firms in energy production projects, added Mr. Arafah.

At the meeting Monday, the prime minister reaffirmed the government's intent to encourage teamwork and creativity. Dr. Majali also replied to questions concerning political and economic affairs and public administration reforms in Jordan.

Danish industrialists to hold fall conference in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Federation of Danish Industries (FDI) has decided to hold a general conference in Amman in October as part of its drive to promote economic and trade relations with countries of the Middle East, according to Tawfiq Kassar, honorary consul for Denmark in Jordan.

Delegates representing 35 Danish industrial firms along with investors and government officials will be taking part in the Oct. 16-20 meeting with Jordanian and Palestinian businesspersons and officials from the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Kassar told the Jordan Times Monday.

The discussions will focus on prospects for joint ventures in the fields of environment, water, energy generation, fishing and a variety of other industries, said Mr. Kassar.

Christian Wittenkamp, head of the FDI who earlier visited Jordan to explore prospects for economic and trade cooperation, will accompany the group to the conference and will lead them later on visits to Jericho and the Gaza Strip, according to Mr. Kassar.

On his last visit to Jordan in late March, Mr. Wittenkamp discussed plans for the conference with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who welcomed the idea, added Mr. Kassar.

In April 1987, a similar delegation visited Jordan and its 28 members held talks with Jordanian businesspersons the visit was reciprocated by an 11-member team from Jordan who toured Denmark to discuss economic and trade cooperation, added Mr. Kassar.

According to the honorary consul, the FDI conducted similar visits to Syria and Lebanon late last year, but they are now turning their attention to Jordan and Palestine through this conference, which is being prepared in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry.

With Denmark's vast experience and expertise in water, energy and food industries, Mr. Kassar said, it is hoped that the conference would result in Danish-Jordanian and Danish-Palestinian joint economic ventures through their respective private sectors.

The multimedia works of Hreib and Al Mashaiki

By Ian Atalia

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two Arab women artists, employing very different forms of art media and sharply contrasting styles and focus have put their works on display at the Ain Art Gallery in Amman in a two-woman show.

Itab Hreib, from Syria, paints with watercolours using a broad, impressionistic style.

"I almost always paint the scenery and landscapes in and around Damascus," she says, "although I've done a few paintings on trips I took to Tunisia and China."

She explains that when she sits down to paint, she does not rely on outward observations and details, but focuses instead on "my inner impressions of a scene, and the emotions and memories which are stirred by it."

For instance, she says, her paintings of houses built row-above-row on a hillside at Jabal Qayoun were not done on the spot, but instead "are taken solely from my memories of how I saw them when I was a child."

Many of her paintings are bold and full of expressive colour, and in them she shows a wonderful gift for hinting at delicate intricacies of light and texture with merely a splash of paint.

But a few of her studies, mainly her landscapes of countryside and forests were obviously more hastily rendered than the rest of her stronger and more full-bodied works, and detracted somewhat from her overall presentation.

The second artist, Sajeda Al Mashaiki, of Iraq, works in ceramics and blends a starkly avant-garde style with traditional Arabic folk themes and motifs, such as a blindfolded bedouin bride who awaits her marriage ceremony.

Her plaques and pottery leave a strange impression on the viewer as surreal, abstract faces pop out at him between carpet-like ceramic folds.

"In my work, I employ a lot of bedouin symbols and folklores," she says, although some of her pottery works are purely modern in form and theme.

The exhibition is scheduled to last until the end of May.



Painting by Itab Hreib

Fresh fish prices soar on local market Seafood shipments from war-torn Yemen halted

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ongoing conflict in Yemen has resulted in the stoppage of fresh fish shipments to Jordan from that country and a near doubling in the prices of fresh fish in the Kingdom's local markets.

The Ocean Fish Centre, a major fish distributor, said most fresh fish supplies used to be flown in from Yemen, but since the airports there have been closed, the centre has received no shipments for the past two weeks. The result, said the centre's owner, has been a price hike on fresh fish from JD3-3.5 a kilo to JD7-8 a kilo.

Orders of air shipments of fresh fish from Pakistan and Oman are expected this week, said the proprietor, who added that he expects the prices to go down slightly.

He said his centre used to receive up to two tonnes of Yemeni fish per week for distribution to various fish markets in the country.

Meanwhile, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the Ministry of Agriculture Monday issued a call on neighbouring Arab states to allow Jordanian fishermen to fish in their territorial waters to help the Kingdom meet its growing demand for seafood.

The call was made by Mohammad Abbadi of the ministry's Livestock Wealth Department who said that last year the Kingdom's total fresh and frozen fish imports amounted to 16,007 tonnes.

Jordan also imported 3,292 tonnes of canned fish and 430 tonnes of smoked and dried fish last year because of insufficient catches at Aqaba and the country's rivers and streams, Dr. Abbadi said.

Fishing in Aqaba, Dr. Abbadi said, is very limited because of restrictions in the regional territorial water zone, intensive shipping activities in the harbour which deter the presence of fish, the security situation and the ban on night fishing.

Fishing in the country's rivers and dams takes place at random and catches are not registered but are estimated to be 350 tonnes annually, according to Dr. Abbadi.

He explained that insufficient water supplies and unstable weather conditions negatively affect the life of fishing ponds.

Dr. Abbadi estimated the total fish production in the country's ponds at 60 tonnes only.

He urged the concerned authorities to work with the Ministry of Agriculture to set up an integrated fish research station to improve the quality of fish and help in fish-breeding in water surfaces.

Mini bus accident injures 19

AMMAN (J.T.) — A mini bus carrying 19 passengers crashed into a valley on the side of the Irbid-Jerash Road Sunday causing some injuries but no deaths, according to a report on Jordan Television Monday evening.

A traffic police officer said the bus driver was speeding and lost control of the vehicle when it passed around a bend. The bus hit the side of the hill, then overturned and fell into the valley below, the officer said.

According to the report most passengers were injured, but the majority have been discharged from Princess Basma Hospital, others were still undergoing treatment Monday evening.

Ministry to expand waste water treatment plant

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health will this summer start implementing a \$35 million project to expand the Khirbet Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant and install special chemical units to absorb the foul odours emitted from the plant and polluting the atmosphere, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said Monday.

The minister told the Jordan Times that plans and funds are ready to start the work some time in August; the project is expected to take up 24 months to complete.

When asked about the need to expand the plant's capacity, Dr. Malhas said that the plant is supposed to treat 69,000 cubic metres of waste water daily, but in reality it is taking 130,000 cubic metres from Amman, Zarqa and Hashemieh.

This means that much of the water coming out of the plant requires additional treatment to prevent the malodorous emissions and ensure the fitness of the water for the irrigation of trees in the area, said Dr. Malhas.

The foul odours from the Khirbet Al Samra plant, located to northeast of Hashemieh town, together with the poisonous fumes emitted by the thermal power station to the southeast, the foul smell from the sheep and cattle farms in the north of the town, the insects and mosquitoes in the swamps of the Zarqa stream and the chemical substances emitted from the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company in the southwest are greatly polluting the atmosphere in and around Hashemieh, said the minister.

At a meeting held with local residents and officials representing the concerned parties Sunday, it was agreed that the refinery would speed up the process of installing sulphur extraction units to reduce the amount of pollutants poisoning the air, said Dr. Malhas.

The thermal power station in the area will continue and intensify the use of magnesium compounds in its power-generating processes because this compound helps increase the rate of sulphuric gas combustion, he added.

The two sides were also asked to raise their chimneys to reduce the amounts of pollutants affecting the area's residents, Dr. Malhas said.

He said the ministry also made arrangements with the concerned authorities to prevent the creation of swamps which are infested with mosquitoes and other insects, clearing culverts along the Zarqa stream to speed up the flow of water into the stream and prevent the formation of swamps.

To help clear the air, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is currently monitoring the pollution rates in the atmosphere, and will continue to do that after various measures have been taken to determine whether the atmosphere has improved or not, said Dr. Malhas.

He said the RSS has installed three monitoring stations for this purpose.

ESCWA to hold ministerial session Permanent site for U.N. agency to be discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Government ministers from the 13 member states of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will meet in Amman to discuss regional cooperation and economic and social development at the commission's 17th Ministerial Session, according to an ESCWA statement Monday.

The session will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, at the Forte Grand Hotel, from May 29 to 31.

Included on the session's agenda is ESCWA's budgetary and financial situation and its medium-term plan for 1992-1997, as well as the proposed amendments to ESCWA's work programme and its priorities for 1994-1995 and for 1996-1997, said the statement.

The amendments to the work programme were made in response to global and regional developments. In addition, they go in line with the overall restructuring process underway at the United Nations system, according to the statement.

During discussion of the executive secretary's report on ESCWA's activities, the delegates will review the progress made in implementing ESCWA's work programme for 1992-1993, which includes the commission's substantive work as well as its performance in the realm of technical cooperation.

The issue of ESCWA's permanent location will also be taken up by the delegates. Proposals from Jordan, Lebanon and Qatar to host the commission on a permanent basis will be studied, as will Iraq's renewed offer to resume hosting the commission. ESCWA has been temporarily based in Amman since the Gulf crisis in 1991.

Session participants will examine the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the social and economic conditions of Syrian citizens under Israeli occupation in the Golan Heights.

In addition, ESCWA's regional cooperation and coordination activities in the areas of the environment and sustainable development will be assessed, in line with the recommendations of the Rio Summit on Environment and Development, and as recommended by the 16th ESCWA Ministerial Session.

Delegates will review the regional preparations for upcoming U.N. conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (in Copenhagen in March 1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (in Beijing in September 1995), and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements - HABITAT II (in Istanbul in June 1996).

The delegates will also review the technical assistance activities undertaken by ESCWA, such as the regional household surveying project. In addition, they will review the services provided by ESCWA regional advisers to member states upon their request.

Delegations will assess the progress made by the statistical committee which has been set up within ESCWA. They will discuss the methods and mechanisms of enhancing intra-regional trade as well as cooperation between developing nations and regional organisations.

In addition, they will discuss means for improving regional cooperation in the fields of energy and shared water resources.

Ministerial sessions are held biennially by ESCWA's 13 member states (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Yemen). In addition, U.N. specialised agencies, regional organisations and U.N. member states with diplomatic status in Amman will participate in the session as observers.

Arab Wings celebrates 19 years of service



Senior officials of Arab Wings and Royal Jordanian, as well as distinguished employees of the charter airline Monday celebrate 19 years service to the Middle East region

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein, Arab Wings Monday celebrated its 19th anniversary with a ceremony during which it honoured several of its employees.

The ceremony also included the inauguration of the Arab Wing's new building at Amman Civil Airport in Marka.

The Arab World's only executive jet charter company, Arab Wings, is a joint project between Royal Jordanian (64%) and the government of Oman (36%) founded in 1975 to meet the needs of the booming economic activity in the Middle East and to facilitate travel for businesspersons, government officials and others.

Arab Wings operates three 6-seater Learjet 35s and one 8-seater Sabreliner 75.

It has won several awards for its safety record and maintenance expertise.

Its aircraft are based in different parts of the Middle East for quick availability to the client so that no place in the Middle East is more than three hours away.

The profits from this operation are directed to medical research institutes and charities.

Royal Wings Director General Ghalib Madadha delivered an address at Monday's ceremony thanking Youth Minister Abdullah Owaidat for deputising for Prince Faisal.

Arab Wings is affiliated to the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ).

Mr. Madadha reviewed the establishment of the company and the services it offers to its customers.

At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Owaidat distributed awards to the company's distinguished employees.

The ceremony was attended by RJ Chairman of Board of Directors Basel Jaradneh, RJ Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Jamal Balgez, Queen Alia International Airport Director Abdul Hameed Al Kabarti and other officials.

WHAT'S GOING ON CONCERT

- ★ Concert by Al Mawred School students at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of 46 artists entitled "He, Bonjour Monsieur La Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Salman Al Basri at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639345).
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shawkat Al Rubaie at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348).
★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hreib and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajeda Al Mashaiki at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451, 652823).★ Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Touni at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جورنال تايمز عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Better late than never

THIS WEEK's disclosure by a British diplomat that his government had always urged its allies, meaning no doubt the U.S., to end the inspection of Aqaba-bound ships is both interesting and encouraging.

We all know by now that the French had also been uncomfortable partners in the inspection scheme and were more than eager to pull out of it as soon as an acceptable alternative was found.

This occasion presented itself when Washington yielded to the Jordanian logic and accepted a land-based inspection regime to be conducted by Lloyds-Register in lieu of the arbitrary stop and search operations that were carried out mostly by U.S. naval vessels in open seas. The extent of the unpopularity of the U.S. naval actions in the Gulf of Aqaba was also exemplified by the refusal of Canada and others to take part in them right at the outset.

While all sides can now take heart from the fact that the crisis over the blockade is almost over, it is still timely to recall that the real intentions behind making things difficult for Jordan were not totally related to the U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed on Iraq. The best evidence of this is the fact that thousands of trucks and other forms of land transport continue to cross the Iraqi frontiers from both Turkey and Iran carrying goods of all kinds without as much as causing a rhetorical protest from the permanent members of the Security Council including of course the U.S. This suggests that something different from or more than applying the continued economic pressures on Baghdad has been the principal motivation behind the application of economic pressures against Jordan. No wonder Britain, France, China and even Russia were never supportive of the kind of operations that were practised in the Gulf of Aqaba over the past few years.

But as the saying goes, all is well that ends well. With the Jordanian offer to entertain land-based inspection of all cargoes destined for Iraq via Aqaba, the stage is set for better if not warmer relations between Jordan and the U.S. The U.N. Security Council is expected to put its seal of approval on the deal struck between Washington and Amman on the Aqaba standoff in the course of the next two to three weeks and with this final chapter in place in the process of resolving the dispute over shipping to Jordan, the stage would be more ready for Jordan to play its full role in the peace process. By that time, we hope that enough progress will have been made on other tracks as well enabling both Arabs and Israelis to come even closer towards a just and lasting peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday said that the Jordanian political parties live through a real crisis at a time when they are trying to feel their way around and win sufficient backing at the grassroots level. Diagnosing the situation, Samir Habashneh said that despite the fact that these parties are considered official institutions, the government is not giving them any attention and sometimes trying to dislodge them on the one hand, while forces hostile to political groups continue to reject the legitimacy of these parties in their entirety, said the writer who is also member of the Lower House of Parliament. The writer said that political parties attempt to rise has been stemmed also by the setback caused to the national Arab movement following the Gulf war and the Israeli-Palestinian accords and the downfall of the socialist bloc in Eastern Europe. Furthermore, the parties' meagre financial means is making it difficult for the parties to reach out to the public at a time when some of the parties' leaders continue to be obsessed by the lust for power and individual glory, added Habashneh. He said only when a free democratic society in Jordan materialises and human rights respected can these parties have their chance to succeed in attracting public interest.

AL DUSTOUR daily Monday criticised the attitude of the United States administration which, the paper said, is adopting double standards in dealing with the Middle East question. While despatching its secretary of state to the Middle East for talks on peace, the U.S. administration is announcing a new deal for selling or granting Israel the newest generation of war-planes, said the paper. Israel for its part is bragging about its desire to have peace but in fact is arming itself to the teeth aided by the United States which has always supported the aggressors, continued the daily. One could have understood Israel's position before the peace process started and before the Arabs agreed to enter peace with their Jewish neighbour, but for sophisticated weapons to pour into Israel's arsenal while peace negotiations are under way is totally unacceptable and deplorable, the paper added.

The View from Fourth Circle

The real measure of Palestine's historical reckoning

By Rami G. Khouri

THE simultaneous transition to a fully democratic and non-racial South Africa and the pre-birth of a self-governing Palestinian statelet, initially in Jericho and Gaza, have elicited many comparisons and emotions. The contrast between the two processes has been significant, with the South Africans expressing almost unanimous joy, and the Palestinians and Arabs showing very mixed emotions.

Many in the Arab World have gone so far as to define the transition in Palestine as the birth of new bantustan. One can certainly debate whether the changes in Palestine are the start of a new era of freedom and national justice, or merely a continuation of the Israeli subjugation and denial of Palestinian national identity that we have suffered this century. The sharp contrast between the hope that defines South Africa and the doubt that permeates Palestinian minds is real and important; but I think we have to delve deeper than these surface emotions to assess the full significance of what may be taking place in Palestine, and to judge whether Palestine is a reliable microcosm of what may be happening in other Arab societies.

It is intellectually chic these days to be critical of Yasser Arafat and the self-governing arrangement that he has negotiated with Israel. The situation, however, is not so simple. Those who oppose Arafat criticise the peace accord, but they are also engaged in an important debate about the nature of political power and decision-making in Palestine. Even those who oppose the Jericho-Gaza first accord recognise that it is going ahead, and most politically active Palestinians are trying to position themselves so as to be able to achieve three things: a) to assure that political decision-making and governance systems as a whole in Palestine are free, fair, open, democratic, participatory, and pluralistic, b) to try to grab their share of the political and economic power that will be apportioned amongst the Palestinian political spectrum in the months and years ahead, and c) to try to make sure that the emerging Palestinian statelet is not absorbed into a neo-imperial Israeli state, but rather progresses on the basis of rejuvenated political, social and economic ties to Jordan, Egypt and its broader Arab hinterland.

It is a very good sign that the terms of reference of the intra-Palestinian political debate have shifted from the simplistic question of whether the peace agreement is good or bad, to the more complex question of Palestine's Arab character and the democratic/autocratic nature of national decision-making in Palestine.

It is difficult to say what this sudden emphasis on the importance of democratic decision-making in Palestine really means. It could be only the Palestinian way of saving face, cutting losses, and making the best out of a bad situation in which Israel appears to have dictated the terms of its gradual disengagement from Palestine. Or, it could reflect genuine democratic and pluralistic Arab instincts that are coming to the fore in a novel Arab region — Palestine — that has the unusual opportunity to define its political culture from scratch. I suspect it is a rather sophisticated and mature combination of both of these: We have accepted the inevitable implementation of the transitional, phased, self-governing process now underway in Palestine, but we want to make the most of this opportunity by ensuring that the future Palestine is democratic, equitable and humane.

tic, equitable and humane.

Returning to the parallels with South Africa, I would suggest that it is too early to make a comparison, because the freedoms that are being celebrated in South Africa have yet to be achieved in Palestine. The ideological debate and political horse-trading underway in Palestine today are the equivalent to what took place in South Africa about two years ago, when the various South African groups were negotiating the nature of the political system that has now come into being there.

For now, we can only assess Palestinian political culture on the basis of what we have witnessed in recent years, and what we are witnessing today in terms of demands by the various Palestinian groups. The record is not always promising, but it is instructive. The performance of Arafat and his supporters during the last year has been grievously, even embarrassingly undemocratic. The negotiations of the Oslo accord and the details of its implementation have been conducted in secret by a handful of Arab supporters — almost totally devoid of consultations among the Palestinian people or prior coordination with other Arab states.

"It is difficult to say what this sudden emphasis on the importance of democratic decision-making in Palestine really means. It could be only the Palestinian way of saving face, cutting losses, and making the best out of a bad situation in which Israel appears to have dictated the terms of its gradual disengagement from Palestine."

The emphasis on democracy as the guiding principle in a future Palestine, therefore, reflects not so much opposition to what Arafat has done, but fears about what he and his supporters may do to monopolise the politics and economy of the emerging Palestinian statelet. I suspect that the dramatic stress on democracy is merely another way for non-Arafat-camp Palestinian political activists to assure that they enjoy a share of the power that will slowly devolve from Israel to the Palestinians.

We see this already in the peculiar manner in which Arafat is naming the members of the 24-person Palestinian authority. The lure of power and the trappings of incumbency, it seems, will triumph again over points of principle. This is no surprise, for this is not an exercise in political theory; it is a process of apportioning grabbing and exercising raw power, and the quest for power leaves little room for anything other than vainglorious self-interest.

The legacy of Palestinian national decision-making in the last decade is blatantly autocratic, with the Arafat-Fateh camp making the major decisions on their own — but always with

the eventual acquiescence of the majority of Palestinians. I would predict that the model for Palestine in the coming few years will not be South Africa, but rather Russia. Arafat will not emerge as a Nelson Mandela or an F.W. de Klerk, but more of a Boris Yeltsin. As has happened in Russia, Palestine will find that the pressing demands of economic progress will require strong, centralised, often heavy-handed decision-making. As has happened in most of the former Soviet Union, ordinary people anxious to work, generate income and meet their basic family needs will sacrifice some of democracy's promise of long-term political rights in order to enjoy the fruits of autocracy's short-term promise of social order and economic activation.

Arafat, like Yeltsin, will speak democracy but practice autocracy, alternately heeding, praising, ignoring and overriding his country's representative legislative institutions. The majority of Palestinians will probably acquiesce in this pattern yet again, because they will be more concerned about assuring their basic human needs than in engaging in the more mystical aspects of democratic pluralism. Palestinian social culture will also define this process, probably favouring a slow, controlled political liberalisation, similar to the process underway here in Jordan which sees a traditional, tribal and patriarchal power elite making the major decisions within a loose context of democratisation that is often superficial and erratic, but also genuine and gradual.

Arafat, like Yeltsin, will also enjoy international support from bilateral and multilateral donors who usually pay lip service to democracy, but always prefer to give their money to regimes that are slightly more autocratic than democratic. The international private sector, along with Arab and Israeli investors, will happily go along with a Palestine that places a greater premium on order and security than on the more esoteric trappings of a pluralistic democracy — because capital seeks order, stability, and profits, and shuns uncertainty or turmoil.

The real test of the quality of Palestinian self-government and eventual sovereignty will be determined by the outcome of the current struggle between the forces of political autocracy and democracy. Palestine remains a special place and an important historical struggle — not only because of the century-long Arab battle against foreign imperialism and Zionist colonialism, but also because of the ongoing contest between those who would dare to build a stable and democratic Arab society and those who would be satisfied with the modern legacy of Arab authoritarianism and political patriarchy.

Let us continue to cheer those Palestinians and other Arabs who persist in pursuing the option of democracy, pluralism and humanism — but let us also be realistic and recognise that even they, in their moment of historical reckoning, are likely to accept a measure of continued autocratic decision-making as the temporary, transitional price one has to pay for overcoming the tough hand that history has dealt them. There is much glory in the struggle for decency in our systems of political governance and social equity; and this, in the end, is the real measure of character and statehood that the Palestinians will have to answer to, and I am convinced, that they will live up to.

LETTERS

Ending Iraqi suffering

To the Editor:

INDEED, IT most certainly is high time to end the suffering of the Iraqi people. But the attempt to shift the responsibility for the Iraqi people's continuing plight from the U.N. (or the U.S. for that matter) to the Iraqi leadership will not achieve that. Referring to James Zogby's article: "U.S. under pressure to end suffering of Iraqi people" (Jordan Times, May 4) I would care to make some comments. Neither will a new series of U.N. resolutions or the opening of U.N.-sponsored poor-houses all over Iraq.

The charity of good people with a bad conscience will not end the suffering of the Iraqi people, because their suffering is not limited to the lack of food and medicine. Their misery lies in the fact that they are held hostage as a people and that their basic human rights as individuals (which are, as we all know, much more than just food and medicine!) are denied them by the sanctions and by the way these sanctions are enforced.

What is the purpose of these sanctions anyway? They were originally hastily imposed against Iraq immediately after the invasion of Kuwait to force President Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops from the emirate. Never before was the attempt to acquire territory by force punished this way (not Israel's for grabbing whatever it grabbed in 1967 nor, more recently, the Serbian one in Bosnia). As it was clear from the outset that the sanctions imposed to punish Mr. Hussein would harm the Iraqi population most, the wisdom of the decision was questionable even at the time.

After the liberation of Kuwait sanctions were upheld under the pretext of security. Iraq has admittedly very dangerous weapons which had to be destroyed to make the region safe. Very honourable! But, on the other hand, is one supposed to believe that Iraq's weapons were more dangerous in general and for the region in particular than Israel's unadmitted nuclear and chemical weapons arsenal?

Now, that Iraq has widely (if not completely) complied with U.S.-U.N. demands on the weapons issue and even with the long-term monitoring programme, there is yet another pretext to continue the sanctions: human rights.

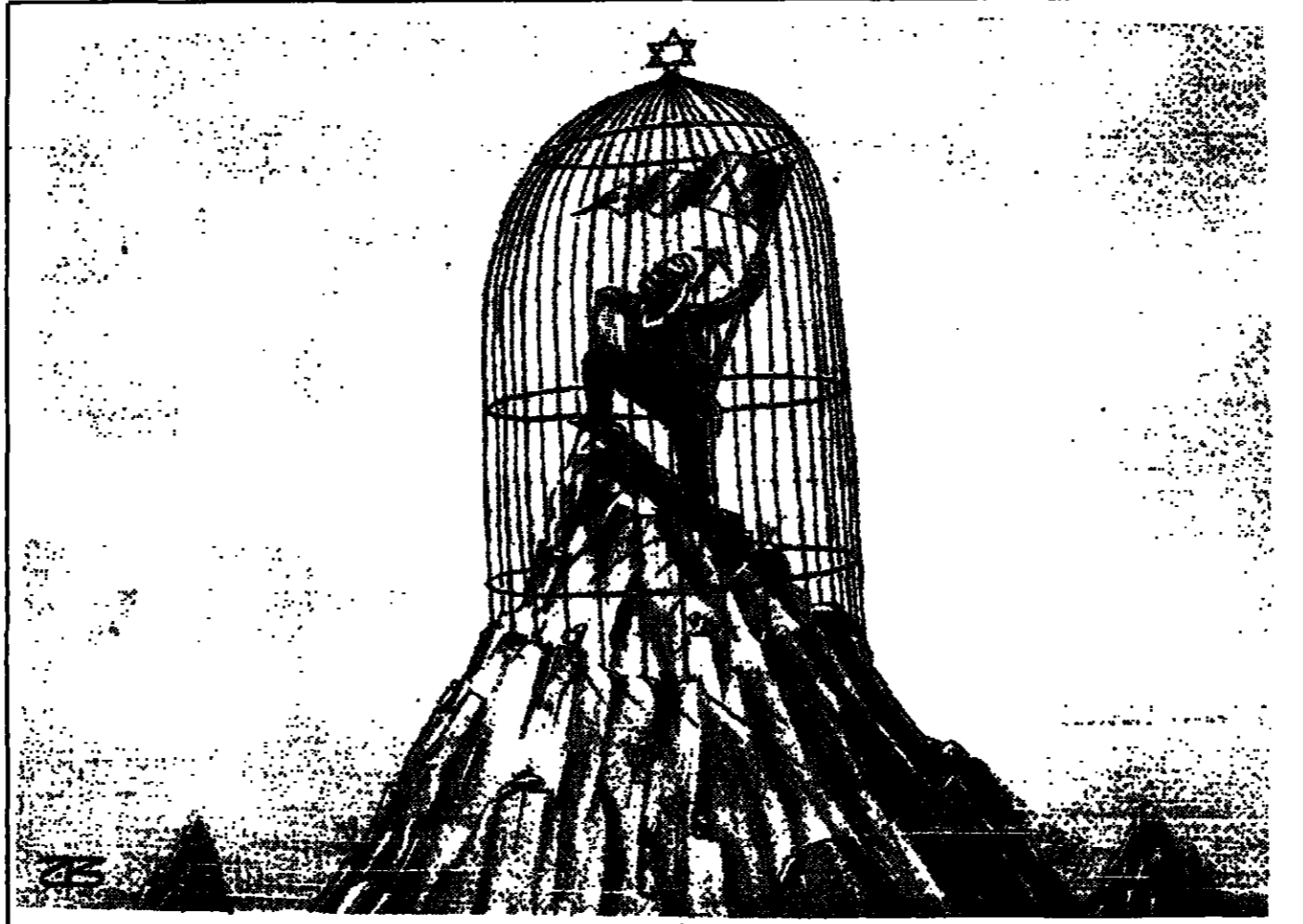
The whole issue is rather weird. Although Mr. Hussein's policies and practices against Kurds, Shiites and non-conformists cannot and should not be condoned, the sad fact remains that the regime in Baghdad is not the only human rights abuser, neither in the region nor in the world. So why is Iraq singled out for special treatment? And furthermore, does it appear to be reasonable to deny a whole nation their basic human rights to force its leadership to abide by the Declaration of Human Rights?

This kind of logic is hard to comprehend. It makes indeed no sense at all. Unless, of course, the sanctions themselves are the pretext. As the U.S. administration is the only party adamantly refusing to lift or even ease the sanctions imposed against Iraq, it is obvious that the status quo is in the best U.S. interest, as it allows the U.S. to pursue its own ends regarding the pacification of the Middle East, and regarding the resources and the wealth of the region. Nevertheless, and despite the U.S. happiness with the status quo, it cannot go on indefinitely.

Those who are genuinely concerned about the plight of the Iraqi people — and not just about easing their conscience — should realise that submitting the Iraqi people to U.S.-U.N. tutelage and transforming the people of Iraq into permanent recipients of world charity is not the solution. The people of Iraq have, as any other people under the sun, the right to independence, to sovereignty over their land and its resources, to national reconciliation and unity. To deny them this right means to deny them their basic human rights.

The people of Iraq need food and medicine. But they also need hope. They need to be allowed and enabled to make their own decisions and choices regarding their future and they need to be enabled to pursue these choices, hopefully leading eventually to a life in dignity, freedom, peace and prosperity. To end the suffering of the Iraqi people means to end hypocrisy and special treatment. It means to lift the sanctions, which so obviously hurt no one but the Iraqi people.

Elmor Keiser-Mohammad,
Abu Nuseir,
Amman



No way seen out of Japan political chaos

By Eugene Moosa
Reuters

TOKYO — Japan's political arena resembles a mine-strewn no-man's land these days and, led by its weakest government in decades, appears without a leader or group equipped with a map to plot the way ahead. "It's useless to talk to politicians these days," said one parliamentary insider. "It's a crisis without precedent and they are thinking of only one thing — self-preservation."

Political pundits, usually only too ready with their views, now refuse to risk their reputations by predicting how the crisis will play itself out.

Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's minority government, the first since 1955, could fall whenever the two main opposition parties combine to call a vote of no-confidence.

The two, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Socialists, have vaguely promised not to do so until parliament enacts the long-delayed state budget bill, probably not before mid-July.

"Passing the budget is essential from the point of view of the people's livelihood," LDP President Yohei

Kono told the Asahi Shimbun on Saturday. "But whether we introduce a motion of no confidence after it has passed is a separate question."

Once a no-confidence vote is passed, Mr. Hata would have just two options. To call snap elections or resign.

If Mr. Hata were to resign without calling elections, there would another period of chaotic political horse-trading, similar to that which followed the resignation of his predecessor Morihiro Hosokawa in early April. On that occasion it took three weeks for a new leader to emerge.

This time, things would be much worse.

A majority coalition still existed in the immediate aftermath of Mr. Hosokawa's departure, but now there is no single bloc capable of putting forward both a credible programme of government and commanding a majority.

This state of affairs is a minefield for the parties, because each, except perhaps the diehard Communists, are threatened by internal dissent.

While analysts call the confusion a painful stage on the road to a full "realignment" of Japanese politics in the post-cold war era, no politi-

cian seems to know how to proceed.

"This is absolute no-man's land," said one source. "Nobody really knows what's going on. You are no longer sure if your dearest party colleague will be your friend or foe tomorrow."

Inside the shaky ruling coalition, shorn of its majority last month by the defection of the Socialists and the Sakigake new party, Mr. Hosokawa's Japan New Party also looks likely to split in the next few months, political sources say. So do the Centrist Democratic Socialists.

Mr. Hata's Shinseitō (Renewal Party) might survive for some time, the sources say, but its chief strategist Ichiro Ozawa has refused public office on the grounds of a lingering heart condition.

The LDP, in power for 38 years until successive scandals finally cast it into opposition last summer, is seriously demoralised after a series of defections over the past year.

With its members now concentrating on personal survival, the party is in no shape to take over the reins despite public claims to the contrary, analysts say.

The LDP is deeply divided between a younger reformist group led by ex-premier Toshiki Kaifu and a group of

elder, hardline conservatives who resist change.

The Socialists, who hold the swing votes in parliament, are perhaps in the worst plight of all, the sources said.

Chairman Tomiichi Murayama has talked of forming a third bloc, after the conservative LDP and Mr. Hata's coalition, but has so far failed to outline a programme out of the current mess.

Using their members' deeply felt hatred of the Hata-Ozawa coalition, Socialist leaders have pandered over the schism between right and left wings which in recent months has threatened to break up the party.

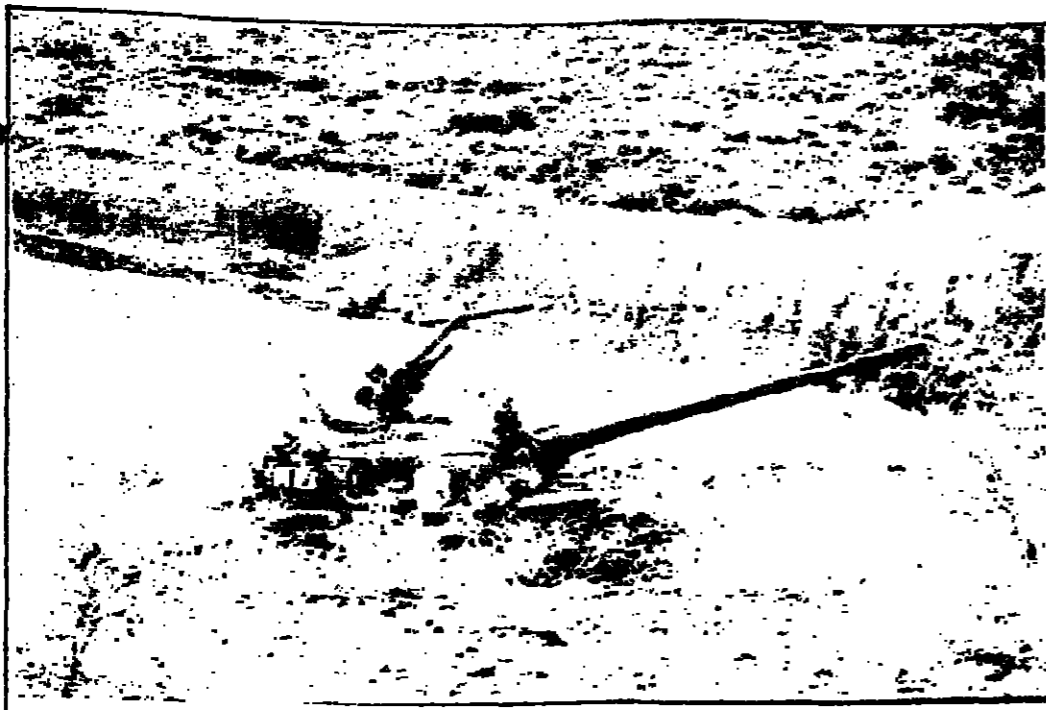
"The Socialists are the deepest in trouble," one source said. "The craziness of this situation is that they hold the swing vote."

"It's meaningless to compare the current mess with 40 years ago," said another political source. "That generation, no matter what its shortcomings, was trying hard to get Japan out of its wartime devastation."

"Speaking as a Japanese citizen, I blame the LDP and Socialists for failing to bring up a new generation of responsible politicians."

كنا في لصل

Features



A mortar left behind by southern soldiers fleeing from Daleh after this town was captured by northern forces (AFP photo)

Neighbours show sympathy for south in Yemen war

By Youssef Azme
Reuters

DUBAI — Southern Yemenis seeking greater autonomy from a domineering Sanaa have won some sympathy from neighbours despite their radical roots that do not sit well in a region dominated by traditionalists, diplomats have said.

They said that Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has launched a battle to crush southern resistance to his rule, blotted his copy book with former Gulf Arab allies for showing sympathy with Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But he has been working hard to revive their suspicions of the former Marxist of Vice-President Ali Salem Al-Baidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled the south until the 1990 merger between north and south and continues to dominate the province.

Statements from Mr. Saleh's Sanaa headquarters speak of the YSP trying to reimpose a totalitarian state and single party rule and calls them a secessionist clique.

Gulf diplomats said this played on the abhorrence of the left among Yemen's oil-rich neighbours and links the

southern party maintained with East European Communists before the YSP abandoned its Marxism after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Blaming the southerners as secessionists also played to residual Arab nationalist sentiment around the region where the merger of the two Yemens was seen by many as the dream of Arab unity come true.

President Saleh has been telling Gulf leaders over the past few months that in trying to reduce YSP influence in Yemen, he was trying to keep out Communism, they said.

But it did not appear that his tactics had worked despite residual concerns in the Gulf about the YSP's leftist origins.

"They (the Gulf states) are still smarting from his support for Iraq and have yet to forgive him for that," one Arab diplomat said.

"Saleh is having a tough time persuading his neighbours, especially big brother Saudi Arabia, that he is a reformed character who should be supported against the south," said another.

Although Mr. Baidh visited Saudi Arabia earlier this year, Mr. Saleh has yet to be allowed into the country, the diplomats said.

His party last month accused Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of financing arms purchases by the YSP, a charge angrily denied by both countries.

Diplomats in the region said Gulf Arab oil states may not be helping the south directly but aid was believed to be pouring into Aden from people of southern Yemeni origin in Saudi Arabia, Oman and other Gulf states.

"We believe a lot of cash and some equipment, perhaps including arms, has been provided by leading businessmen of Hadrami origin," one Arab diplomat said.

He was referring to the province of Hadramawt that dominates the eastern part of what used to be South Yemen and borders both Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Although Saudi Arabia and Oman may not be comfortable with the prospect of a strong and united Yemen of up to 13 million people as a neighbour, there was no evidence that they were intervening directly in the Yemen conflict, the diplomats said.

But they may not have actively discouraged help slipping into the south along their porous desert borders.

By Bernard Besserglik
Agence France-Press

SARAJEVO — A 23-member Bosnian government commission is gathering evidence for a Nuremberg-style war crimes trial incriminating the Serbs in Pale and Belgrade they say have pillaged and ravaged the country.

More than 2,500 cases are being examined, a total to be slimmed down to around 1,000 before being presented to the president of the U.N. expert commission investigating war crimes in ex-Yugoslavia, Chicago law professor Sharif Bassouni, according to commission secretary Mirsad Tokaca.

Last month a Bosnian government legal team, including several international lawyers working with U.N. ambassador Mohammad Sacrbey, presented a dossier against former Yugoslavia to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, purporting to prove Serbian atrocities in the conflict in Bosnia.

Mr. Tokaca said the evidence being collated covered a wide range of issues, ranging from rape, concentration camps, mass killings, the siege of Sarajevo, the razing of mosques and cultural complexes and the destruction of infrastructure covered by the Geneva Convention.

The commission is collaborating with German federal prosecutors who are investigating several suspected Serb war criminals, notably Dusko Tadic, arrested last February and accused of committing crimes at the Omarska detention centre, in northwest Bosnia.

However, Mr. Tadic was a "third class criminal," a mere follower of orders, Mr. Tokaca said.

What the commission has in its sights is the separatist Serb leadership in Pale and its backers in former Yugoslavia, "the ideologues and organisers, the high-level politicians and officers who prepared and organised the aggression."

Mr. Tokaca believes evidence is available to incriminate Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, along with many of those around him, including deputy leader Nikola Koljevic, the speaker of the self-proclaimed Serb parliament Momcilo Krajisnik, and the Serb military leader General Ratko Mladic.

The commission has opened centres in Vienna, Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt and some Swedish cities to



LIVING IN FEAR: Two Bosnian women with a child hurry to escape sniper fire in Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Bosnia plans for justice over rights violations

enable Serb troops who have fled to Europe to come forward with information. Many have already volunteered information "of great quality" regarding the chains of command to the lower ranks.

Also targeted by the commission are Zeljko Raznjatovic, known as Arkan, and Vojislav Seselj, whose paramilitary bands stormed into Bosnia from Serbia in the early stages of the conflict, Yugoslav army generals Zivota Panic and Blagoje Adzic, and at the very summit, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, widely seen as the main sponsor of the Bosnian conflict.

The commission has opened centres in Vienna, Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt and some Swedish cities to enable Serb troops who have fled to Europe to come forward with information. Many have already volunteered information "of great quality" regarding the chains of command to the lower ranks.

The painstaking fact-gathering process could last many years. The war crimes

committed by all sides are being investigated, Mr. Tokaca noted.

Small Celic, a historian who heads Bosnia's Institute for the Study of Crimes Against Humanity, stressed that every people felt an innate need for justice.

"We cannot understand the behaviour of the international community in accepting criminals like Karadzic as valid negotiators," he said. "This is very hard to explain to the Bosnian people."

The Bosnian authorities have received modest encouragement from the ICJ in the Hague, which said last year that there was a case to answer under genocide conventions, and called on the U.N. Security Council to act

to "prevent and punish" acts of genocide in Bosnia.

Human rights groups such as Helsinki Watch have drawn up lists of suspected war criminals which include figures such as Mr. Karadzic, Mr. Mladic and Mr. Milosevic.

In 1992, then U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger placed the three men on a list of suspected war criminals in a statement that drew an angry response from Pale.

U.N. Human Rights Commission Rapporteur Tadeusz Mazowiecki warned in February that the international community had tolerated massive violations of international humanitarian law in Bosnia, noting in a report

that human rights had played only "a secondary role" in the international response.

The policy "undermines some of the most fundamental principles upon which international law and the system of human rights protection have built," he concluded.

Zdravko Grebo, a political commentator on independent radio, was philosophical about the prospects for a trial: "It depends on the will of the international community to push the process and defend its own principles."

But he warned: "Without the prosecution of all war criminals, together with the right of refugees to return, all peace plans and settlements are doomed to fail."

Khaddoumi expected in Amman

(Continued from page 1)

extend its jurisdiction to other Palestinian areas, its role will be more dominant than that of the CBJ in the committee. The question that political analysts raise, and the two sides refrain from commenting on, is whether the joint committee will be an interim body, pending the consolidation of the Palestinian authority or a permanent nucleus for future Jordanian-Palestinian merger.

Information available suggests that the draft agreement strengthens the engagements between the Jordanian and Palestinian economies, especially in areas that involve steps to boost the circulation of the Jordanian dinar and custom free exchange of many major commodities, such as Jordanian oil byproducts and cement.

The draft agreement, also includes a Jordanian proposal that the Palestinian side open a credit account in the Central Bank of Jordan to settle payments for goods imported from the Kingdom. The Jordanian side will be ready to open a similar credit account at the Palestinian monetary authority — once it is established.

But perhaps the major elements in the plan of action include assurances by the Palestinians ensuring that measures that could undermine the stability of the Jordanian dinar will be taken.

One of the commitments, according to Palestinian sources, is that the Palestinian monetary authority will notify and coordinate with the CBJ prior to taking any steps to phase out the Jordanian dinar, in case the Palestinians

attained their demand of issuing a Palestinian pound in future negotiations with Israel.

But in the immediate future, the measures agreed upon with Jordan to safeguard the stability of the Jordanian dinar reflect a political decision by the PLO to carry out steps that will result in the phasing out of the use of the Israeli shekel and minimise Palestinian dependence on Israeli goods.

Economists warn, however, that determining the major currency will depend mainly on the market supply and demand, especially that many Palestinian workers will still be paid in shekels.

"For a long time to come the Jordanian dinar will remain the currency (as the strongest currency) that Palestinians will use for their savings, while the shekel will be the one used for circulation and daily exchanges," said economist Fahed Al Fanek, who explained that as the situation stands in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, a political decision or an agreement will not be enough to determine the major currency.

However, according to the plan of action, the Palestinian authority will take measures that will boost the circulation of the dinar to lessen Palestinian dependency on the shekel. Among these measures are the use of the dinar as the official currency for the payments accounts and estimation of the official budget of the Palestinian authority.

In the words of a Jordanian official source, the steps, if ratified by the PLO, will give the dinar the functions of a legal tender without being a de

jure legal tender.

The PLO will also study a Jordanian request to pay the wages in the dinar. PLO sources said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has already opted to use the dinar, instead of the dollar as the main currency, but the extent of using it in official transactions will hinge on the funds available.

One problem that the Palestinian authority will have to deal with, sources said, will be the high cost of exchanging shekels into Jordanian dinars.

But the measures are expected to largely increase the circulation of the dinar in the autonomous areas and the rest of the West Bank from the estimated JD 300 million to JD 500 million once the Palestinian authority consolidates its authority.

The few details available on the agreement, which a senior Jordanian source described as a detailed applicable plan based on the major principles outlined in the earlier Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, signed last January, suggest that the PLO has opted to start practical steps and to depend on Jordan to disengage from the Israeli economy.

While Palestinian officials insist that Israel will not have a big say, if any, in determining monetary policies through the joint Israeli-Palestinian committee, Jordanians seem concerned with including steps and provisions that will act as a safety valve against ramifications of potential Israeli influence.

On its turn, the PLO's final decision, according to Palestinian officials, will have to take into consideration both its aim of disengaging its economy from Israel and securing future Palestinian sovereignty.

Arafat receives support

(Continued from page 1)

come under heavy attack from many Palestinian leaders, including members of Mr. Arafat's Fatah group, for the extended role it gives to Israel in making and implementing the decisions concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Ashrawi's views reflected the logic of a number of important leaders in the West Bank, including Fatah leader Faisal Hussein, who are disgruntled by the agreement but see more damage in boycotting the authority.

In an interview with the Al Quds newspaper, Mr. Hussein described the agreement as the long-awaited birth of the Palestinian people born deformed. "It is deformed but nevertheless it is our child," Mr. Hussein was quoted as saying.

This logic, which is taking hold in the occupied territories, seems to find considerable acceptance, especially as the public is overwhelmed by the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the parts of Gaza and Jericho. But these arguments had little impact, if any, on some leading figures who believe that the agreement rendered the authority a powerless tool of the Israeli occupation.

Mr. Arafat has not been discouraged though by these arguments, and has even been in contact with leftist groups asking them to convince Dr. Abdul Shafi and others to join.

Both Dr. Abdul Shafi and Dr. Al Ashhab, who have historically been associated with the left, command wide respect among Palestinians, including opposition groups. Their inclusion would be an indirect representation of the Palestine People Party (PPP), which had announced that it was boycotting the authority.

So far the 17-member list declared by the PLO includes Fatah members, loyalists, traditionalists and representatives of the Palestinian Democratic Union, FIDA. The last group in particular had publicly condemned the agreement, and its leaders

are hoping that the authority will include strong figures who can improve negotiations with Israel over extending the autonomy to the other West Bank towns and the final status negotiations.

Fida itself has witnessed strong internal opposition to its own participation, but the final voting was in favour of the group's leader Yasser Abed Rabbo, who has remained one of Mr. Arafat's few partners, despite frequent disagreements between the two over negotiating tactics.

Dr. Ashrawi's declaration has raised doubts that other personalities cited by the PLO might not have given their final approval so far. One such name is prominent businessman Munib Al Masri. Some PLO officials claim that Mr. Masri will not take part in the authority once the final list is drawn up.

"Arafat needs good and influential names... so that he can secure more participation," said one PLO official. A Tunis-based PLO official said that Mr. Arafat has no problem listing up nominees. "Many are contacting him hinting that they'd like to be appointed but he is seeking an impressive list," the official said.

According to Dr. Ashrawi, a lot will hinge on the structure and statute of the Palestinian authority. Others, including some legal experts, disagree arguing that the responsibilities and role of the authority have been already defined by the Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

One such expert, Anis Al Qassem, who has been a leading figure in a reformist movement that sought to ensure that the self-rule will lead to the attainment of the Palestinian national goals through democratisation, has not reconsidered his position. "All arguments that were made prior to the last agreement have to be reconsidered. This is a restructuring of Israeli occupation," Dr. Qassem, who is working on a legal critique of the agreement, said.

Christopher carries Syrian reaction

(Continued from page 1)

Diplomats expect the United States, as chief sponsor of the Middle East peace process, to intensify its efforts on the Syrian-Israeli track, following the May 4 PLO-Israel deal on launching Palestinian self-rule.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has offered to return three of five Druze Arab villages on the Heights as a first stage in a three-stage withdrawal over five-to-eight years term the plateau which Israel conquered in 1967.

Syria has rejected the offer and was likely to turn down Israeli proposals that Mr. Christopher try to persuade Damascus to set up a joint military commission with Israel to "draft security arrangements" for the Heights.

"Damascus is not begging for peace," the English-language Syria Times said in an

editorial, reiterating Syrian insistence for a total Israeli withdrawal before peace with Israel.

Mr. Christopher explained the prolonged stay in Damascus by saying he had needed to clarify "a couple of things" before flying to Israel and so asked to see Mr. Sharaa again.

"Each element is scrutinised with very great care," he said. The two sides were "exchanging ideas and probing each other on very early aspects but very important aspects."

"We are at the beginning of a very serious process," said a U.S. official who refused to be named.

A U.S. official said Mr. Assad still insisted on total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, but noted that the Syrian press had been "more positive" in the last two days.

Court finds Jordan Times guilty

(Continued from page 1)

Oct. 11 in which the newspaper carried claims made by some of the defendants on trial that they were tortured in detention and forced into signing confessions.

Under the new press law, several cases have been filed against mainly tabloid and political party weeklies. The judge who heard the case, Mansour Al Hadid, was recently appointed to handle all legal cases pertaining to press and publications.

The Jordan Times case will be the first of its kind to be heard in the Court of Appeals since the enactment of the 1993 law.

Why watch football games at home when you can enjoy it with a crowd.

Be a sport, come to
The Marriott Bar

Members only
Please call: 607607



AMMAN
Marriott
HOTEL
ماريوت عمان
P.O. Box: 926333 Amman - Jordan Tel: 607607 Fax: 670100

Arabs make slow progress in industry

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states have made slow progress in their long-standing efforts to build an industrial base to lessen reliance on oil and cut a huge import bill, official reports showed Monday.

While the oil sector has steadily declined over the past decade, non-oil industries have grown slightly in some states. They receded in others due to lack of investment and political instability.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and other official institutions said the per capita share of total Arab industrial production stood at \$80, mainly due to a drop in oil prices.

The share of the non-oil industrial sector rose to \$212 from \$160 over the same period. The workforce in the Arab industrial sector has grown by around four per cent per year over the past decade to reach 12 million, but the oil price decline lowered per capita productivity to \$9,543 from \$14,246 per year.

A report by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries showed that non-oil industries remained far smaller than the oil sector in terms of value added, the difference between output and goods consumed in output.

It said the value added in extractive industries, which include oil and mining, stood at \$101 billion in 1992 and its share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reached 21 per cent.

Value added in non-oil industries stood at \$45 billion and share of GDP at around 10 per cent.

"Industries intended to replace imports rather than destined for exports have remained the main element in the Arab industrial sector except for petrochemicals, refining and minerals," the AMF said. "In general, non-oil industries still lack technology and have failed to achieve considerable expansion in electrical products and other equipment."

Most of the non-oil industries in the Arab World are still limited to light products such

as building materials, foodstuffs, clothes and textile, chemicals, home appliances, paper and spare parts.

Cement emerged as the biggest productive sector in those industries, with the Arab League's 22 members having around 105 plants with an output capacity of nearly 99 million tonnes per year.

Steel production, mostly in Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Saudi Arabia, stood at 10 million tonnes per year.

"The non-oil industrial sector has steadily grown over the past years but the growth was weak and fluctuating," the AMF said. "Productivity has also remained relatively small as such a sector is still in the initial stages."

The report showed Arab non-oil industrial exports have also steadily grown but remained much lower than the industrial imports.

While exports jumped from \$1.3 billion in 1975 to \$21.6 billion in 1992, industrial imports surged from \$14 billion to \$62.3 billion.

A breakdown showed the value added, the barometre of actual industrial growth, rose modestly in most member states while it fell in others.

Between 1987-1992, it rose from \$6 billion to \$8.4 billion in Saudi Arabia, from \$2.2 billion to \$2.7 billion in the United Arab Emirates, from \$2.8 billion to \$3.1 billion in Kuwait.

In Jordan, it rose from \$511 million to \$601 million, from \$4.2 billion to \$5.4 billion in Morocco, and from \$4.6 billion to \$6.5 billion in Egypt.

It fell from \$3.5 billion to \$2 billion in Syria, from \$7.6 billion to \$4.2 billion in Algeria, and to a few million dollars in Djibouti and war-torn Somalia.

In embargo-hit Iraq, the value added jumped from \$4.9 billion to \$7.4 billion, the report said, without explaining.

Russia's premier wants continued tight policy

LONDON (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has pledged in an article to continue tight money and credit policies despite having reached "the trough of the crisis" in his country's economic transformation.

In an article written for Monday's Financial Times, Mr. Chernomyrdin said these policies had brought inflation down to 10 per cent monthly between February and April, and should cut it to between seven and eight per cent a month by the end of 1994.

"To achieve this goal, we must adopt the most resolute measures aimed at limiting the budget deficit and the emission of credits," he added.

Economic reform, including a change in tax rates to increase state revenues, has been carried out against a background of a drop in output in the first quarter of 1994 of

about 25 per cent compared with the same period last year, Mr. Chernomyrdin wrote.

But the Russian prime minister said the government continued its tight monetary policy. The drop in production did not and would not deflect the government from its course, he said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin dismissed pressure from ministers for an increase in spending, saying all the cabinet understood a strong rouble was essential for a revival of the Russian economy.

"Our common task is thus clear to ensure that Russian citizens should know that everything their government does is directed to protect the purchasing power of the rouble," Mr. Chernomyrdin wrote.

But the prime minister said it was possible to break out of

the crisis and start on the road to economic revival.

"We are now living through the trough of the economic crisis. In the next few months, we can make a break from the basic negative tendencies which have held back our development in the past two or three years," he added.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said he did not foresee mass factory closures and a sharp rise in the unemployment rate, which he said would sharply worsen the political and social situation in Russia.

Instead, he outlined an action plan for industrial change.

The plan divides businesses into three categories those which are adapting well, those which have the potential to adapt but need state help to do so and those that are hopeless and should be closed down.

But Mr. Chernomyrdin said

the third group would only be closed down when there was a safety net for those thrown out of work.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the government was working with Western financial institutions to try to direct financial credits towards resolving social problems.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said links with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which earlier this year advanced the second tranche of a \$3 billion loan in return for commitments to market reform, showed Russia's new openness on economic matters.

"We believe that the agreement with the IMF will lay a good foundation for our talks with the Paris and London clubs on the restructuring of the former debt of Russia which we inherited from the Soviet Union," he wrote.

Asian ministers reject linking trade and rights

SINGAPORE (R) — ASEAN ministers Monday renewed attacks on the West for trying to link workers' rights with trade, saying the move could undermine free trade and hurt poor nations' economies.

Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) should resist moves to insist on what he called unreasonable labour standards which ignored the needs of the developing states.

"We cannot make changes to suit other's standards," Mr. Lee said at the opening of a two-day meeting of labour ministers from the six countries that make up ASEAN.

Labour practices in several Asian countries, including ASEAN members Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, are scheduled to undergo scrutiny at an International Labour Organisation meeting in Geneva next month.

Mr. Lee said ASEAN, which also comprises Brunei, Singapore and Thailand,

viewed the linking of "social clauses" to trade agreements as a disguised form of protectionism.

"Some of those pushing for such linkages are undoubtedly genuinely concerned about the welfare of workers in developing countries," he said.

"But the greater concern of many others is how workers in developed countries can cope with competition from the developing countries," he added.

"They seek reasons, which can be dressed up and made to appear legitimate, to hinder trade and restrict access to their markets," Mr. Lee said.

ASEAN officials said the West's newest weapons was a proposal for a world minimum wage, put forward during the final round of talks under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

Malaysia's Human Resources Minister Lim Ah Lek told the meeting that using trade and market access as new levers to force compliance with Western-defined labour standards was a dangerous trend.

Row clouds future of African bank

NAIROBI (R) — The future of the African Development Bank (AFDB) has been clouded by rows over financing, loan policy and attempts to topple its president that marred the 30th anniversary meeting, delegates said Monday.

Western donors at last week's summit in Kenya's capital Nairobi refused to pledge \$2.6 billion to replenish AFDB's soft loans fund because they were unhappy with allocation policies put forward by some African countries.

Creditor nations also said they were alarmed at the mounting arrears on loans given by the bank which now total more than \$700 million, economists said.

"It is important that improvements be made to enhance the bank's efficiency," said Japanese delegate Isa Kubota.

British government representative Barry Hudson said steps had to be taken to reform the bank's lending policy following an independent report which criticised resource allocations.

Some African countries, led by Nigeria, rejected categories

called for by donors which would distinguish between creditworthy states that could borrow from the bank and others that would be eligible only for interest-free loans from the fund.

Donors say only countries with per capita incomes of over \$1,054 per year should be regarded as acceptable credit risks.

Countries with per capita income of \$543 or less would be able to borrow only from the soft-loan fund. At present these economies have access to bank loans.

States with per capita income between the two figures would be able to turn to both the bank and the fund, the donors propose.

The AFDB's new chairman Kalu Idika Kalu told Reuters representatives of African countries and non-African members would meet again, probably in June or July, to try to resolve the dispute.

Mr. Kalu said that the per capita income criterion was too rigid at a time of fluctuating economic conditions in Africa and members should take into account indicators of economic health other than per capita incomes.

Bank president Babacar Ndiaye said donors were effectively saying poor African states should be denied any access to cash.

One compromise would be an agreement on the income bands criterion, but with the possibility of exceptions allowing poor countries that have never defaulted on AFDB loans to continue borrowing from the bank, European sources said.

The meeting, which was supposed to celebrate 30 years of business, also became the forum for unseemly squabbles over the AFDB leadership with several directors openly campaigning for Mr. Ndiaye's removal from office.

China sets battle plan against rising jobless rate

BEIJING (R) — China, facing the prospect of millions of urban workers thrown out of their jobs by economic reform, is scrambling to open its employment market in the hope of keeping the urban jobless rate below three per cent.

Vice Labour Minister Zhu Jianzhen said new policies would allow private companies to set up employment services and would offer them tax exemptions and priority bank loans if at least 60 per cent of their jobs go to the unemployed or the laid-off, the official China Daily said Monday.

The government will also allow employment companies to experiment with the shareholding system to make them more flexible and responsible to market demands, he said.

"One of the best ways to control unemployment is to give full play to the service industries irrespective of their ownership," Mr. Zhu was quoted as saying.

Urban unemployment is one of Beijing's biggest headaches because it dismantles the "iron rice bowl" system of socialist cradle-to-grave employment in the state sector.

Forced to become competitive in the market, many large state firms are beginning to slash their payrolls and cut benefits. Worker anger over dwindling state job prospects has already broken out in several cases of open unrest.

Rural migrants also complicate the employment picture, packing China's cities and grabbing temporary jobs as

construction workers, household helpers and odd-job specialists.

China's official unemployment figures, which diplomats say are skewed to the low end and do not count rural migrants, report urban unemployment at 2.6 per cent in 1993 against 2.4 per cent in 1992. The government's target this year is to keep it below three per cent.

"Urban unemployment is expected to top five million this year," the China Daily said.

"During the first quarter of the year, inflation hit 20.1 per cent, resulting in an increase in the level of unemployment in Chinese cities. This trend is worrying the government," it added.

New Malawi government faces poverty and unemployment time bombs

BLANTYRE (AFP) — Poverty and rising unemployment are seen here as political time bombs ready to explode in the face of a government which will assume power in this tiny south-eastern African country after Tuesday's general elections.

Official statistics say about six million of the country's 10 million people live below the poverty line, while fewer than one million of a potential 4.5 million workforce are gainfully employed.

The common feature of the Malawi poor is their inability "to meet their minimum nutritional requirements and essential non-food needs equivalent to \$40 per capita per annum," says a government report released recently.

"The unemployment problem is extremely acute," says Michael Heyn, resident coordinator of the United Nations in Malawi.

Impoverished Malawi, with a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of about \$210, needs to create 400 new jobs every day if it is to stabilise the unemployment problem.

"Those who get employed do so in low productivity jobs in small-scale agriculture and informal micro-enterprises," Mr. Heyn said.

The formal sector absorbs less than 10 per cent of the newcomers to the labour force every year.

Western donors say Malawi's poverty and social indicators are its low life expectancy and adult literacy levels. Life expectancy is 48 years in Malawi, compared to the average 52 years for sub-Saharan Africa.

Infant and child mortality rates, says Mr. Heyn, "remain unacceptably high." One in four children dies before its fifth birthday and 50 per cent of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Economists here estimate the adult literacy rate at 39 per cent against an average 47 for the sub-Saharan Africa.

An economist said only 29 per cent of Malawian women are literate. Women make up 52 per cent of the country's total population, which is rising at three per cent per annum, rated by the World

Bank as the fastest in the region.

The opposition blames President Kamuzu Banda's government for economic woes.

The leader of the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), trade unionist and a presidential candidate in the forthcoming elections, Chakufwa Chihana, says unemployment runs at 30 per cent because of lack of political commitment and misallocation of resources.

He said some redundant ministries created to accommodate some politicians and unproductive staff at the country's 19 embassies throughout the world run on a total annual budget of 60 million kwacha (\$9 million) were a waste of resources, at the expense of

poor Malawians.

Mr. Chihana often attacks Mr. Banda for his lavish lifestyle of building several palaces instead of improving ordinary Malawians' lives.

"How can one person with no child or wife have 13 state houses," he says of President Banda, adding that it takes about \$3 million to maintain the palaces every year.

Independent economists say Mr. Banda controls 40 per cent of Malawi's economy through his personal Press Holdings company.

Most parties here, including Mr. Banda's ruling Malawi Congress Party, often avoid the issue of unemployment but are quick to promise the electorate that they will attract

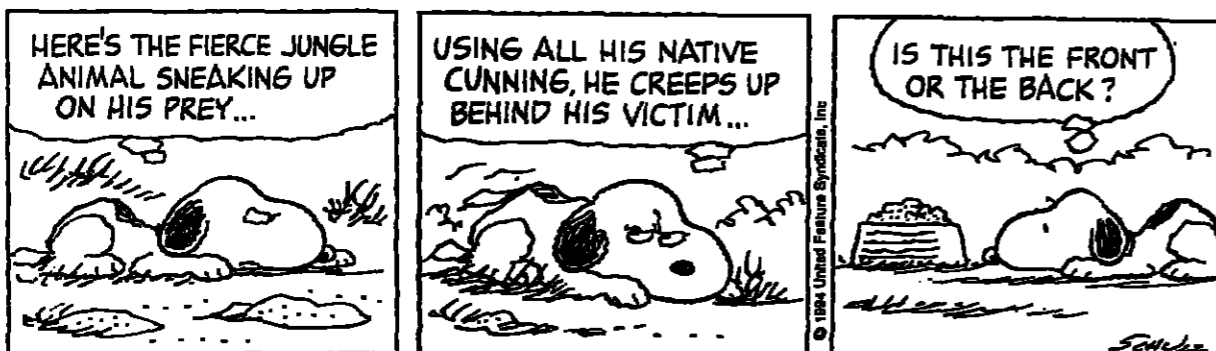
investment — which will in turn create employment.

Agriculture, the mainstay of the country's economic growth, provides employment and subsistence for the country's majority population, but the World Bank representative here warned that this narrow resource base makes the economy more vulnerable to world market prices and other external shocks.

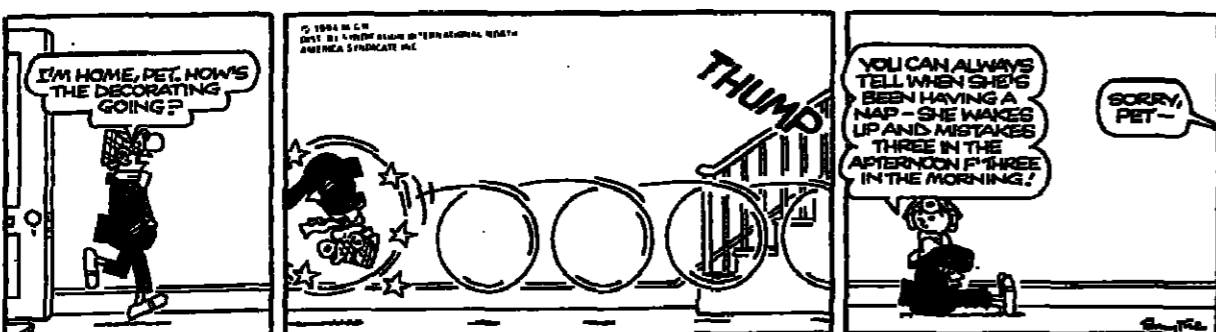
World Bank's Arif Zulfikar, said: "Clearly, the odds are stacked against Malawi," warning that if Malawi did not work hard, it would risk being overtaken by its neighbours.

"Unemployment and poverty will be Malawi's sticky issues for any government," a political analyst said here.

Peanuts



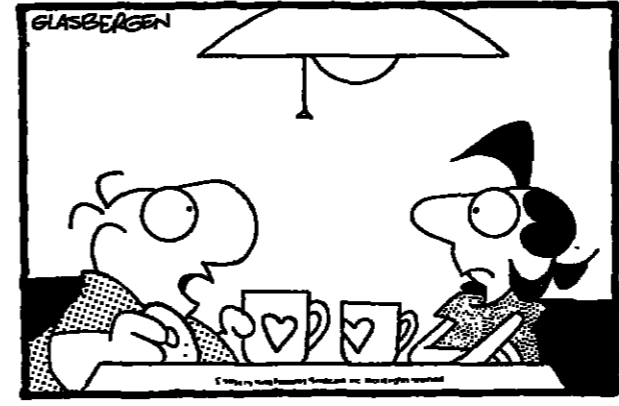
Andy Capp



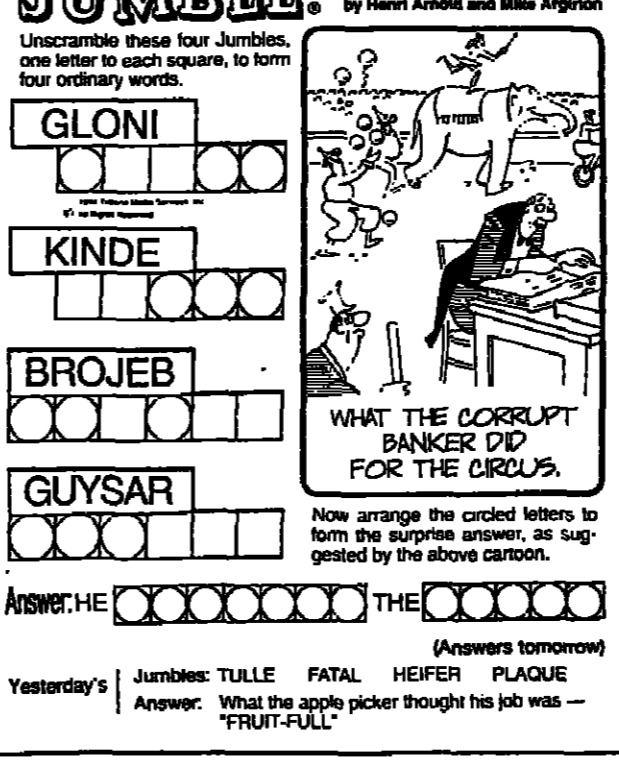
Mutt'n'Jeff



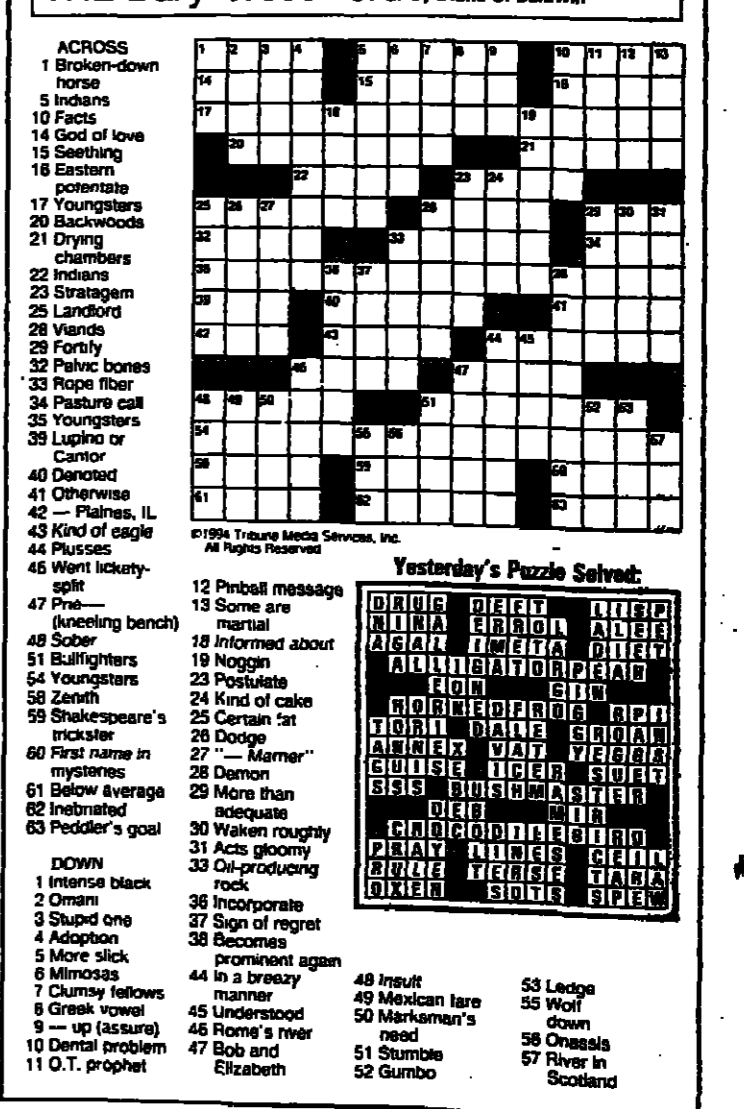
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin



the third group was closed down when the safety net for those of work.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, government was to try to direct funds towards resolving the crisis.

Mr. Chernomyrdin with the International Fund (IMF) this year advanced a plan for a \$1 billion return for the market reform, which would be a major economic matter.

"We believe that the IMF is a good foundation for the reform of the economy, but the former debt which we inherited from the Soviet Union," he said.

an bank

Mr. Kalu said the capital income crisis, rigid at a time of economic conditions, and members should account indicators of health other than income.

Bank president Ndiaye said domestic states should be able to access to cash.

One compromise is an agreement on the basis of criteria, but the possibility of economic poor countries is never defaulted on loans to continue to from the bank. Sources said.

The meeting, which posed to celebrate business, also has a forum for uncertainty over the AFDB, with several director campaigning for Mr. Ndiaye to be removed from office.

SCOPE

SUNDAY MAY 17, 1994

er. Carol Rogers

meet people who can put better perspective on the cut down on expenses to money to spare for the LIBRA: (September 22) Study your habits well before property. Take a car and regain energy on the day.

SCORPIO: (October 23) November 21) Find the way to have greater understanding with you, as there is more available for the long term.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22) December 21) Study is fundamental in your work and you gain a lot of time. Take no risks during the day.

CAPRICORN: (December 22) January 20) Try to play with whom you are close, whether in business or improve your financial.

AQUARIUS: (January 21) February 19) Be sure the condition of your car during spare time can be a problem about it. Maintain even during the day.

PISCES: (February 20) March 20) A good day in the way of advancing in work. Center with associates in the future wisely for the progress.

rd by Diana C. Sullivan

insult Mexican fare

Marked in

meat

Sumo

Guinea

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
DOMESTIC MARKET LIST FOR MAY 16, 1994				
CURRENCY	TRADED PRICE	OFFER PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN NATIONAL BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN COMMERCIAL BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN SECURITIES BANK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
AMMAN TRADING BANK	100.00	100.00	10	

Bosnian rivals fight on; diplomats press for peace

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian foes clash around the city of Tuzla Monday and the U.N. reported a Muslim build-up in central Bosnia despite new diplomatic efforts to halt a war that has killed 200,000 and displaced almost two million people.

European Union ministers met in Brussels to discuss the latest Bosnia peace plan adopted by foreign ministers of the United States, Russia and the EU in Geneva Friday and a Russian envoy went to Belgrade to explain it to the Serbs.

In Sarajevo, Muslim-led forces fired on a Swedish U.N. convoy Sunday near a tense confrontation line on overlooking Mount Igman, U.N. Protection Force spokesman Rob Annink said.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) reported a Muslim infantry and artillery attack on the Olavo-Kladanj frontline which dominates a vital Bosnian army supply line to Tuzla Monday.

It also reported continued attacks on the Majevica front which overlooks the Tuzla region and around Doboj and Teslic.

Croatian Radio reported increased Serb-Muslim fighting in the 40 kilometres area around Tuzla and pinpointed the worst clashes around Bratunac.

la, south of the U.N.-designated safe area.

Three slammed into the city centre Sunday evening, with two hitting a hotel but causing no casualties. Maj. Annink said a total of 34 shells hit north of Tuzla airport.

A British Scimitar light tank destroyed a Serb Bunker near Magaj Sunday after U.N. peacekeepers came under fire, Maj. Annink said. The Serb post had been "a problem for British peacekeepers in the area for several weeks," he said.

UNPROFOR spokesman in Sarajevo Eric Chaperon confirmed earlier reports from Vitez on a Bosnian Muslim army buildup near Turbe in central Bosnia over the past week.

U.N. sources said 10 Muslim-led Bosnian army brigades have moved into the area, facing off against two Serb brigades, and have restricted U.N. movement in the area.

The Muslim brigades are often no bigger than a western battalion of about 600 men and considerably smaller than their Serb counterparts.

Muslims were reported also reinforcing the sensitive area of Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo and UNPROFOR

described the development as "profoundly disturbing."

UNPROFOR planned to set up an observation post south of Igman and to increase patrols there to try and defuse tensions between Serb and Muslim-led forces, Maj. Annink said.

Serbs withdrew from Igman under threat of NATO air strikes and on condition that the area was demilitarised.

Against this tense backdrop, European foreign ministers met in Brussels Monday to decide how they can help ensure that last week's Bosnia peace accord will succeed.

It will be the first time that all 12 EU countries have been given full details of Friday's agreement in Geneva between the world's big power on a joint peace strategy.

Although both the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs both publicly criticised the big powers' call for a four-month truce, EU ministers said the attempt had to be made to achieve an end to hostilities.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher suggested that objections to the peace plan were predictable.

"I'm not surprised to see them not put all their cards on the table," Mr. Christopher told reporters. "We're going to

see some posturing on all sides."

Russia's special envoy Vitaly Churkin met Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade Monday and said urgent implementation of the Geneva agreement was a priority.

"I am going to recommend to (U.N. special envoy Yasushi) Akashi that he tries to bring the parties together immediately in order to implement one of the elements of the ministerial document and that is the agreement on the cessation of hostilities," he said.

Mr. Churkin said Mr. Milosevic strongly backed the proposed truce but left all other aspects of the accord for the Bosnian Serbs to judge including the division of territory, with 51 per cent going to the Serbs and rest to the Muslims and Croats.

Mr. Churkin warned this ratio was not negotiable: "We are not going to negotiate the percentage with the parties. 51-49, and that goes for all the parties to the conflict, not only to Bosnian Serbs but also to the Muslims and to the Croats."

UNPROFOR sources in Zagreb said Mr. Akashi was expected to visit Sarajevo for ceasefire talks in next few days, most probably Wednesday.



MISS PHOTOGENIC: Minorka Mercado of Venezuela smiles after she was chosen Miss Photogenic at the 1994 Miss Universe pageant. The 22-year-old university student from Caracas who stands six feet and two inches receives a \$1,000 cash prize. The 1994 Miss Universe will be chosen from the 77 candidates on May 21 (AFP photo)

U.K. 'house of horror' wife charged with sixth murder

GLOUCESTER, England (Agencies) — The wife of accused "house of horror" serial killer Frederick West has been charged with a sixth joint murder with her husband, police said Monday.

A spokesman said Rosemary West, 40, would face the new murder charge at her next appearance in court scheduled for June 3. Mr. West, a 52-year-old builder who has been charged with 11 murders of young women, was next due in court on June 2.

The spokesman said the new charge related to Juanita Mott, aged 18, who vanished in 1975. Her body was one of nine exhumed by police from the Wests' home at 25 Cromwell Street, dubbed the "house of horror" by media, since the end of February.

Police involved in what threatens to be Britain's largest serial murder investigation in recent history dug up a 10th body from a field northwest of Gloucester, western England, and an 11th set of remains was exhumed from another house in Gloucester that Mr. West lived in during the early 1970s.

One of the charges against Rosemary West concerns the murder of Heather West, her and West's daughter, who went missing in 1987 at the age of 16.

Nine of the bodies were found buried in the garden, basement, walls and floors of the house in Cromwell Street.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old boy.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old boy.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old boy.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old boy.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old boy.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old boy.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old boy.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old boy.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

IAEA team in Beijing en route to N. Korea

BEIJING (Agencies) — A three-member inspection team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived for a stopover in Beijing Monday en route for a key visit to a suspected nuclear bomb factory in North Korea, diplomats said.

The delegation, which will spend a day in China before leaving for Pyongyang, is headed by Olli Heinonen of Finland, with Vladimir Rukhlo, a Russian, and Jamaluddin Omar, a Tanzanian, they said.

The three will leave Beijing Tuesday afternoon aboard a North Korean airliner.

North Korea announced Saturday that it was beginning to replace fuel rods at the Yongbyon nuclear site, 90 kilometres (54 miles) north of Pyongyang, without the presence of IAEA monitors.

The IAEA, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, has insisted on viewing the operation, saying it is vital for checking suspicious about North Korea's nuclear programme. According to the United States, the procedure could free up enough plutonium for at least four nuclear bombs.

The inspectors, who took part in a previous IAEA mission to North Korea in March, are scheduled to return to China on May 24.

But the agency's spokesman, David Kyd, said Sunday that "if the reports (of the refuelling) turn out to be correct, the inspectors will be immediately recalled to Vienna."

Meanwhile the White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mac" McLarty said that the United States needed more data before responding to a reported North Korean breach of nuclear safeguards.

Mr. McLarty, appearing on the CBS programme Face The Nation, said the administration would wait until the IAEA inspectors returned from Korea before seeking possible economic sanctions.

"If that (IAEA) report is not what it should be then we will consider all of our options, including sanctions," he said. "But right now we simply need more information about this very concerning matter."

South Korean officials said Saturday that the North had begun withdrawing spent fuel from a nuclear reactor without international inspectors present, an action that Washington has said should lead to sanctions.

North Korea, in turn, has said that it would regard sanctions as an act of war.

The immediate focus of concern is the removal of plutonium-packed fuel rods from the five-megawatt reactor at North Korea's Yongbyon complex, 60 miles north of Pyongyang. Inspection of the rods would help gauge how much weapons-grade plutonium North Korea may have been secretly siphoned off.

The majority view among U.S. intelligence analysts is that the North has already diverted enough plutonium from reactor fuel withdrawing in 1989 to make one or two nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

Clint Eastwood gets French arts award

CANNES, France (AFP) — Veteran U.S. film star Clint Eastwood, the president of this year's Cannes festival jury, was awarded the French National Order of Arts and Letters here Sunday. French Culture Minister Jacques Toubon bestowed the award on Eastwood in a ceremony also attended by Federico Mayor, secretary general of UNESCO, reminding the actor-turned-director that he first came to fame in Europe. Mr. Toubon thanked Eastwood for "the pleasure you have given us in cinema" and noted: "It was in Europe that Clint Eastwood first became popular, thanks to the films of Sergio Leone, before becoming a big star in his own country."

Boy saves toddler from blaze

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (AFP) — An 11-year-old boy dashed into a blazing apartment and rescued a two-year-old boy who had been left unsupervised, police said. The boy hero said he simply ran in and grabbed the toddler, ignoring what the Boy Scouts taught him — to crawl under thick smoke. "I thought it would take me too long if I had crawled," said Jason Dent, who was alerted by screaming in the upstairs apartment of his building Thursday night. Six youngsters — the oldest was six — had been left alone in their apartment when the two-year-old began playing with matches and set fire to a book, police said. Two mothers, one of whom was having a birthday, had each left their three children in the apartment and gone out to celebrate, police said. Both women were booked Friday and charged with child desertion.

The IAEA, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, has insisted on viewing the operation, saying it is vital for checking suspicious about North Korea's nuclear programme. According to the United States, the procedure could free up enough plutonium for at least four nuclear bombs.

The inspectors, who took part in a previous IAEA mission to North Korea in March, are scheduled to return to China on May 24.

But the agency's spokesman, David Kyd, said Sunday that "if the reports (of the refuelling) turn out to be correct, the inspectors will be immediately recalled to Vienna."

Meanwhile the White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mac" McLarty said that the United States needed more data before responding to a reported North Korean breach of nuclear safeguards.

Mr. McLarty, appearing on the CBS programme Face The Nation, said the administration would wait until the IAEA inspectors returned from Korea before seeking possible economic sanctions.

"If that (IAEA) report is not what it should be then we will consider all of our options, including sanctions," he said. "But right now we simply need more information about this very concerning matter."

South Korean officials said Saturday that the North had begun withdrawing spent fuel from a nuclear reactor without international inspectors present, an action that Washington has said should lead to sanctions.

North Korea, in turn, has said that it would regard sanctions as an act of war.

The immediate focus of concern is the removal of plutonium-packed fuel rods from the five-megawatt reactor at North Korea's Yongbyon complex, 60 miles north of Pyongyang. Inspection of the rods would help gauge how much weapons-grade plutonium North Korea may have been secretly siphoned off.

The majority view among U.S. intelligence analysts is that the North has already diverted enough plutonium from reactor fuel withdrawing in 1989 to make one or two nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defence William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

Mandela strongly denies report of early retirement

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's new President Nelson Mandela has strongly denied a London press report that the plans to retire in two years' time.

In a weekend statement released by his African National Congress (ANC), Mr. Mandela, who was sworn in as the country's first black head of state on May 10, said the report in the Sunday Times was "rumour-mongering written with the intention to create uncertainty."

"The people of South Africa have given the president a mandate and he intends to fulfil that mandate," said Mandela, 75, terming the article "totally unfounded and malicious disinformation."

The newspaper quoted ANC sources as saying Mr. Mandela has "privately hinted he will step down once a final constitution has been written and he has overseen the country's first steps toward reconciliation."

Mr. Mandela's "determination to give up power well ahead of the next general election has sparked a power struggle" within the ANC, it said.

The parliament that emerged from the country's first democratic election on April 26-29 is mandated to rewrite the nation's final constitution over the next five years.

South Africa is in the meantime run by an interim constitution that went into effect at midnight on April 26, the start of the second day of the historic poll.

Meanwhile, a weekend upsurge in violence sent a shiver through the new South Africa, but there were indications Monday that many of the killings were criminal rather than political.

Police and the army reported a total of at least 19 deaths in the black townships around Johannesburg and in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal.

But residents said gang warfare appeared to be behind the worst single incident — the massacre of 12 teenagers and young men in the Johannesburg township of Tokozo Friday night.

Colonel Dave Bruce, spokesman for the Johannesburg region, said the level of political violence had dropped sharply, but police expected a surge in crime following the return to normal duties of police deployed for last month's historic elections.

"There does appear to be active animosity between various groups, 'self-defence' groups still running round with AK-47 rifles. It's not going to be an ongoing situation, but it is worrying at this particular stage," he said.

Violence is one of the urgent problems facing President Nelson Mandela's ANC-led government of national unity which is still setting in after taking office last week.

Hata, LDP fight tug-of-war over Socialists' swing vote

TOKYO (R) — Japan's minority government fought a tug-of-war with the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party Monday in an attempt to win the Socialists' casting vote for a crucial parliamentary post.

In its opening salvo against Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's government last week, the LDP submitted a binding resolution to remove the chairman of the Parliamentary Steering Committee.

A vote on the resolution, expected later this week in the full lower house, will reveal the extent of Mr. Hata's weakness and show whether the Socialists are ready to side with their LDP opposition arch-rivals to deal the government a further blow.

The battle is seen as the first step towards pushing through a vote of no-confidence against Mr. Hata.

The chair of the Steering Committee, currently held by Hata protégé Keiwa Okuda, controls the order of business and is one of three top posts in parliament.

The other two jobs, the lower house speaker and the head of the Budget Committee, are already held by opposition lawmakers.

A Socialist spokesman said the party executive could decide how to vote after Chairman Tomiichi Murayama meets Mr. Hata Tuesday.

"There is nothing wrong with Mr. Okuda's performance," the coalition government said in a statement Monday after a meeting of its representatives. "We will do all we can to protect his office."

The ruling bloc sent its parliamentary negotiator to meet his Socialist counterpart

Koken Nosaaka but Mr. Nosaaka made no clear commitment, coalition officials said.

"We are seriously troubled over this intense issue," coalition officials quoted Mr. Nosaaka as saying.

The LDP also sent its representative to Mr. Nosaaka but again he was non-committal, LDP officials said.

Despite all the attention the Socialists might just abstain from voting, in effect allowing the LDP to carry the vote, Japanese newspapers reported.

"We should probably be satisfied with a Socialist abstention," said one LDP executive. "That's enough for us."

The coalition holds about 192 seats in the 511-member lower house, against the LDP's 206 and 92 for the Socialists and its small ally.

Internally the Socialists were split into two camps, a right-wing faction favouring the coalition over the LDP and the left which wants revenge against Mr. Hata.

Last month the Socialists walked out of the coalition on the day Mr. Hata was named prime minister, mainly because of what they saw as high-handed moves by their partners to reduce Socialist influence on policymaking.

The defection robbed the alliance of a working majority. LDP leader Yohei Kono said at the weekend his party would submit the no-confidence motion after passage of the long-delayed state budget, expected in mid-July.

Defeat would leave Mr. Hata with a stark choice: resign or call snap elections.

U.K. urged to take tough line over IRA talks

LONDON (R) — Northern Ireland politicians who want to maintain links with Britain demanded Monday that any clarification of last December's Anglo-Irish peace plan for the troubled province should not lead to negotiations with the IRA.

Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said at the weekend that Britain's response to questions about the peace plan posed by Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, could break the deadlock over Northern Ireland.

"The questions by and large are answerable, and I hope that the British government will give the most positive response they can," Mr. Reynolds said in Indianapolis, where he held unscheduled talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

British officials said Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew was likely to answer the 16 questions, relayed to London by Dublin last Friday, later this week.

Although Sir Patrick has insisted he will not negotiate with Sinn Féin until Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas lay down their arms, pro-British Protestant politicians expressed concern that Prime Minister John Major's government might soften its line.

"The IRA... is clearly not prepared to cease violence at this particular time, so any exer-

cise is both futile and an indication to the IRA that the government is weakening," Ken Maginnis of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) told BBC Radio.

A fellow UUP member of parliament, David Trimble, accused Mr. Reynolds of being the IRA's messenger boy and said the British government was on a slippery slope by offering clarifications.

"What the government has to do is to stick absolutely firmly to its existing policy and give no hint or sign of a change in policy," Mr. Trimble said.

He described the IRA, which has waged a violent 25-year campaign to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, as trying to "entrap and entice" the government into negotiation.

"We must not have any element of negotiation. Once the government gets on to that slippery slope, it will be lost," Mr. Trimble warned.

James Cran, a Conservative MP who is vice chairman of his party's backbench Northern Ireland Committee, criticised Mr. Reynolds's go-between role as unhelpful.

"This high-profile intervention in the affairs of Northern Ireland is going to be deeply misunderstood in Northern Ireland. I think he has a part to play, no doubt, but it should be done behind the scenes," Mr. Cran told the BBC.

Yeltsin appoints regional man to key nationalities post

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin appointed Monday a regional official from southern Russia to the key post of nationalities minister, signalling the Kremlin's fresh resolve to defuse ethnic tension in the troubled northern Caucasus region.

Nikolai Yegorov, 42, an ethnic Cossack who headed the regional administration of Krasnodar, replaced Sergei Shakhrai, a deputy prime minister who also held the nationalities portfolio, the Presidential Press Service said.

Mr. Shakhrai will retain the rank of deputy prime minister and the regional policy portfolio.

The appointment came after Mr. Shakhrai failed in consecutive rounds of negotiations to restore relations with the breakaway Republic of Chechnya which declared independence from Moscow in 1991.

Attempts at resolving the conflict between ethnic Ingush and Ossetians in the Caucasus republic of North Ossetia have also failed to yield results following a brief outbreak of fighting in the fall of 1992.

As governor of the Krasnodar region, Mr. Yegorov has managed to maintain stability in a multi-ethnic region bordering Russia's trouble spots in the Northern Caucasus, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

"He enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

"The enjoys considerable authority, not only in that territory, but also among the leaders of Russia's northern Caucasus republics," the news agency said.

Cambodia's Ranariddh backs foreign military aid

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Thai criticism of Cambodia's request for foreign military aid for its army is interference in the internal affairs of another country, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Monday.

"It is not acceptable, it's interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state," he told reporters.

Prince Ranariddh said Thailand had provided arms to the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction and was now telling Cambodia it should not accept offers of foreign military aid.

Australia, France and the United States are considering a formal request to help train and equip the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

Thailand's National Security Council chief, General Charan Kullavanijaya, criticised possible military assistance to Cambodia, saying any arms would most likely be sold by corrupt commanders or used by bandits against civilians.

And in published comments Monday, Thai Army Commander General Winol Wongwanich said military aid for Cambodia was not the solu-

tion. "Thailand would be seriously affected as the weapons supplied to Cambodia would be put on sale along the Thai border by ill-disciplined Cambodian government troops in need of money," he said.

"What Cambodia needs is humanitarian assistance for its people, which would help bring lasting peace to the country and the region," he said.

Informed U.N. sources told Reuters that corrupt Thai military officers continue to provide rebel Khmer Rouge guerr

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hariri returns to work

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri returned to work Monday after a week-long strike that plunged Lebanon into its worst political crisis in nearly two years. Officials said Mr. Hariri resumed his activity at the government headquarters for the first time since May 8 when he announced he was staying home after a planned cabinet reshuffle was blocked by President Elias Hrawi and House Speaker Nabih Berri. Mr. Hariri would chair a cabinet meeting later Monday. The prime minister decided Saturday to return to work after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the main power broker in Lebanon, though his demands were not met.

Rebels kill 9 villagers in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Kurdish rebels killed nine villagers in Edebuk and set fire to some houses in the eastern region of Erzurum, the Turkish news agency Anatolia reported Monday. The Kurds used machine-gun fire in the attack late Sunday, the agency said. Only hours earlier Interior Minister Nabih Mentese had issued a statement saying that the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighting the Turkish authorities for a decade was on the point of breaking up after a series of military defeats. Police in Istanbul were meanwhile holding a couple suspected of planting a bomb on the Blue Train at the railway station minutes before its departure for Ankara overnight. The couple, slightly injured in the blast, had Turkish nationality, police said.

German campaign for presidency nears end

BONN (R) — The kid-gloves campaign for Germany's presidency went into its final week Monday with second-placed candidate Johannes Rau grasping some sensitive issues in a bid to close the gap. The Social Democrat (SPD) hopeful sketched out a liberal plan on immigration in an interview in which he came as close as he could to criticising the tough stand of Christian Democrat (CDU) front-runner Roman Herzog. Mr. Rau, who easily beats Mr. Herzog in popularity polls, has also been canvassing disgruntled East German CDU deputies to urge them to break ranks and back him in the special Electoral College that selects the president on May 23. But Mr. Herzog, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's candidate, still seemed to have enough of the Electoral College's 1,324 deputies behind him to survive any defections during the complex voting. "There won't be enough for the SPD man to score a surprise victory," the news weekly Der Spiegel said of the defections. The Electoral College, which meets in Berlin, may have to vote three times if, as expected, Mr. Herzog wins most but not all of the 50 per cent needed in the first two rounds. With the largest block of votes behind him, he is expected to win at least the simple majority needed in the third round and could do even better if the Free Democrats (FDP) withdraw their candidate and support him.

Worst mine blast in China kills 38

BEIJING (R) — A gas explosion in a Jiangxi province coal mine killed 30 Chinese miners, the largest death toll from a single mining accident in China this year, an official newspaper reported. Investigators blamed the May 1 blast at the state-owned Finghu Coal Mine on "engineering mistakes, poor management and other human causes." Anhui Daily reported in editions seen Monday in Beijing. Details of the explosion were not disclosed and no reason was given for the two-week delay in reporting it. Among the 38 dead were five supervisors from the local mining bureau, the report said, calling the blast "the biggest single mining accident in China this year." Coal industry Vice Minister Zhang Baoming held a nationwide telephone conference on May 5 to exhort local officials to strengthen mine safety, saying the Finghu blast was this year's ninth major mining accident. More than 10,000 miners die each year in China's poorly supervised mines, according to official figures.

Pakistanis flee Yemen for Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — More than 200 Pakistanis evacuated from Yemen's civil war fled into Karachi aboard a special flight, officials said. Most of the 232 evacuees were wives and children of Pakistani businessmen and diplomats living in the Yemeni cities of Sanaa and Aden, a Pakistani International Airlines official said. They were among the last of the foreigners there. "The situation was horrible," said one woman. "It was worst on May 5 when Saudi missiles rained on Sanaa." "There was no water, no electricity and food was scarce," another woman said. Many were teachers from the Pakistan Embassy School or wives and children of Pakistani bankers working in Yemen. Most Pakistanis in Sanaa had taken refuge from the civil war in the Pakistan Embassy School while those in Aden were housed in a United Nations building, they said. Officials said about 1,000 Pakistanis were living in Yemen when the civil war erupted this month. While many had made their way to neighbouring Saudi Arabia, many more were still in Yemen, they said.

Chinese leave Yemen for home

BEIJING (AFP) — More than 200 Chinese construction workers, engineers and medical personnel arrived in Beijing Monday, after fleeing the bloody civil war in Yemen. Some 160 Chinese workers were flown home Friday and a further 398 were scheduled to return later Monday. Among the latest arrivals who flew in on a chartered Boeing 767, were 34 who had been stranded in southern Yemen ever since civil war broke out on May 4. The deputy director of a Chinese medical team, Zhang Chengjian, was shot dead during their eventual evacuation. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said last week that China was "seriously concerned with the worsening situation in Yemen and deeply grieved by the huge loss in lives and property."

Rushdie receives literary award

VIENNA (AFP) — British author Salman Rushdie was presented with the European prize for literature Monday by the Austrian Minister for Education and Culture Rudolf Scholten. The prize, which was awarded to Rushdie in 1992 and includes a cash prize of \$17,000, was handed over amid strict security at the ministry. Rushdie has been living in hiding since he was condemned to death by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel The Satanic Verses. The writer was emotional during the ceremony saying he had almost forgotten what it was like to be in a room full of people discussing his work. A jury of authorities decided to award Rushdie the prize in 1992 but their decision was kept secret for a year because Austrian authorities said they could not ensure Rushdie's security in Vienna.

Gaza suffering shown at Cannes

CANNES, France (AFP) — The sufferings of Palestinians on the Gaza Strip were brought to the somewhat less harsh surroundings of the French Riviera Monday, in a moving drama-documentary at the film festival here. Curfew, by 32-year-old director Rashid Masharawi, tells the story of 24 hours in the life of an ordinary family living under curfew in a refugee camp. It was made before the recent autonomy agreements reached with Israel. The film includes the depiction of a house being destroyed by the Israeli army while Palestinian neighbours look helplessly on, while a number of Palestinians are taken off for no apparent reason. The film was presented Monday in the Director's Fortnight selection of films here, and is also selected in the Camera D'Or (Golden Camera) section of the festival, for first-time film makers. The dominant themes of the 75-minute movie — above all boredom, but mixed with the tension of not knowing what will happen next, is summed up by the words of one of the main characters, Abu Raji. "That's all you're good at, saying tomorrow things will improve, and the day after will be better. We don't even know what today will bring," he says.

Red Cross tries to move food to trapped Rwandans

NAIROBI (R) — Red Cross workers Monday attempted to deliver food to thousands of trapped civilians outside Rwanda's capital Kigali during a lull in fighting between rebels and government forces, officials said.

They said the aid workers would try to move a convoy carrying 40 tonnes of porridge from Kigali to Kabagayi some 45 kilometres southwest where refugees are living in death camp conditions.

"Yesterday when they tried to get the food out (of Kigali) the warehouse was shot at," a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Nairobi said. But after heavy artillery duels between government army positions and those of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) Sunday, U.N. officials described Kigali as ominously calm.

"It is very quiet this morning. But it is usual that there is calm before a big storm," Abdul Kabia, executive director of the U.N.'s Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) said by telephone.

Kigali, once a quiet African city known for its lush gardens and flowers, has become a slum reeking of dead bodies since the fighting started, residents said.

Reuters reporters who visited Kabagayi Friday said refugees, mainly from the minority Tutsi clan, were eating out an existence in sub-human conditions.

Dead bodies lie unburied at the centre of the camp, miserable groups huddle around camp fires, stretching out their hands for a share of cornmeal cooked up in large, rusty vats.

Refugees said they were being kept virtual prisoners by government army troops and that people were repeatedly pulled out of the compound and butchered by extremist death squads from the Hutu tribe.

The deaths of countless thousands — aid workers say up to 500,000 — of Tutsi and opposition party Hutus are blamed on the death squads and government soldiers who went on the rampage after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights is holding an emergency session later this month to discuss the killings. Only the third in its history, the session is expected

to appoint a "special rapporteur" or investigator to look into rights violations in the Rwandan conflict.

ICRC officials have been trying to establish a 500-bed hospital in Kabagayi but the government military refuses to declare the area neutral, leaving it vulnerable to attacks by the militia.

Efforts by former French Humanitarian Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner to secure safe passage for civilians wanting to leave areas blitzed by fighting or patrolled by militias went awry when his convoy was shot at outside Kigali late Sunday.

Mr. Kouchner was driving back from Gitearama, the regional town where the rump government is based, when gunfire sent his entourage scurrying for cover.

Meanwhile, Dutch Overseas Minister Jan Prouk called on the United States to lead an airlift of food to thousands of displaced Rwandans inside the country. Hundreds of thousands have also fled to neighbouring countries.

Mr. Pronk, who visited Kigali at the weekend, told Radio Netherlands an international protection force should be deployed to protect relief convoys.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to vote on sending a force of up to 5,500 peacekeepers to the central African nation, Tuesday, but aid workers warned the world body against embarking on another operation without proper planning.

"Just dispatching troops without an overall approach to end the fighting with diplomatic and political measures suggests to me that they (the United Nations) haven't learnt their lesson," Malcolm Fraser, former Australian prime minister and president of the aid group Care International, said in Sydney after visiting Rwandan refugees in Tanzania.

A spokeswoman for the aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres said hospitals in the 200,000-strong Tanzanian camp at Benaco were already filling up with patients suffering respiratory diseases, dysentery and diarrhoea.

"There have been at least 10 deaths from pneumonia while dysentery and diarrhoea are increasing," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

"Doctors say conditions will continue to deteriorate and there could be an epidemic within three weeks."

Egypt confident Pentagon to continue military aid

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Defence Minister Mohammad Hussein Tantawi said Monday he was confident the United States would maintain its \$1.3 billion annual military aid to Egypt, at least for the time being.

Mr. Tantawi was speaking after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to report on his recent visit to Washington and talks with Pentagon officials.

"The U.S. administration showed full understanding of Egypt's role and position and is taking the appropriate procedures regarding the arms sales and the development of Egypt's armed forces, which is proceeding according to a five-year plan already under execution," Mr. Tantawi told reporters.

"The U.S. administration has introduced some cuts in its military aid budget in the world but due to Egypt's role and importance in the region, I hope we will not be affected by this reduction," he added.

Mr. Tantawi discussed U.S. military aid to Egypt and other issues during a two-hour meeting last Tuesday in Washington with Defence Secretary William Perry.

Mr. Perry told reporters he and Mr. Tantawi would discuss U.S. military aid to Egypt and Israel, but officials said later no decisions were reached on increased Pentagon support for Cairo.

Mr. Tantawi went to Washington after the United States announced it was making deep cuts in its defence budget. Security sources said Egypt was concerned that some members of Congress were pressing the Clinton administration to reduce costly foreign arms aid, especially in the Middle East.

But the sources said Mr. Tantawi managed to persuade the Pentagon to at least keep the aid going for the next year. The Pentagon has already announced plans to sell torpedoes and anti-ship Harpoon missiles to Egypt's navy for \$97 million, but took no immediate action on Egypt's request for more U.S. F-16 fighters and attack helicopters for its air force.

Egypt already has 120 F-16s and 40 others will be delivered by the end of this year.

Egypt's request apparently followed the Pentagon's approval to sell 25 McDonnell Douglas F-151 attack jets to Israel for \$2.4 billion.

Malawi parliament passes constitution on eve of poll

ZOMBA, Malawi (AFP) — Malawi's parliament Monday passed a new interim constitution the very day before multi-party elections set to end three decades of paternalistic rule by veteran President Kamuzu Banda.

Justice Minister Lovemore Munlo presented the constitutional bill to 141 members of parliament from Mr. Banda's ruling Malawi Congress Party, in a special one-day session convened before 3.8 million Malawians are called to the polls.

Mr. Munlo, who is also attorney-general, said the constitution was written and adopted by the all-party National Consultative Council (NCC) formed during a two-year transition to democracy and approved by Mr. Banda's 22-member cabinet.

"The document is the final result to compromises in the NCC," Mr. Munlo told MPs in parliament in the impoverished southern African nation's former, traditional capital, Zomba.



Armenian soldiers jump down from a tank, coming back from the combat positions in Agdam region, Azerbaijan. Armenian and Azeri sides exchange fire

these days as a matter of routine, but without taking further offensive action (AFP photo)

Armenians, Azeris agree Karabakh truce

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia and Azerbaijan Monday agreed a ceasefire in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh to come into effect from midnight (2000 GMT), a senior Armenian official said.

Armenian embassy spokesman Hamlet Gushyan said by telephone Armenian forces had also agreed in principle to withdraw from large parts of Azeri territory outside Karabakh which they occupied in a series of offensives last year. The agreement was reached at Moscow talks mediated by Russia.

The Moscow talks took place between the defence ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia as well as the chief of Nagorno-Karabakh's defence forces.

"It was the most productive meeting between the sides for

six years," Mr. Gushyan said. All previous attempts to negotiate an end to the protracted conflict have failed. Both Azeri and Armenian officials said before the talks started that any agreement would only be a first step towards an overall deal.

Mr. Gushyan said Armenian forces would start withdrawing from Azeri territory starting on May 25. It was not immediately possible to contact Azeri officials for their comments.

The protracted conflict, longest-running of all the wars on the territory of the Soviet Union, has killed several thousand people and caused more than one million, mainly Azeri, refugees.

Although the mountainous territory of Karabakh technically still belongs to Azerbai-

jan, ethnic Armenians have virtually driven all Azeri civilians out and proclaimed an independent republic.

Big-power Russia says it has strategic interest in the region which borders on Iran and the Middle East. Brokering a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan would help it strengthen its influence there.

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan are under domestic pressure to find a settlement to the protracted crisis.

The Armenian economy is throttled by an energy crisis that stems from an embargo imposed by Azerbaijan on supplies of Turkmen natural gas across its territory to Armenia.

For Azerbaijan, the war has created internal turmoil that has already caused the downfall of two governments.

Somali gunmen kill 5 U.N. soldiers

MOGADISHU (R) — Five Nepalese U.N. peacekeepers were killed and another was wounded when they tried to stop fighting between Somali clan militias in South Mogadishu, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Witnesses said several Somalis were killed or wounded in the fighting in a maze of streets near the U.N.-controlled airport.

"I understand there was inter-clan fighting in the area prior to the attack. The Nepalese went in to mediate and were fired upon," U.N. military spokesman Major Chris Budge told Reuters.

"I don't know whether they were caught in crossfire or directly attacked. At present I am leaning towards a direct attack," Maj. Budge added.

Maj. Budge said that after coming under small arms fire, "the Nepalese returned fire and as the situation developed the Egyptian and Pakistani Quick Reaction Forces (QRF) were deployed as a means of precautionary protection." The fighting was between

members of warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed's Habre Gedir clan and their rivals of the Hawadle, witnesses said. The same district was the scene of a 10-day clash between the clans in late April and early May.

Witnesses said the Habre Gedir, also blamed for killings of U.S. peacekeepers last year which prompted a withdrawal of American peacekeepers, were behind the attack on the Nepalese.

They were the first U.N. casualties since two Nepalese were killed in the same area of Mogadishu on April 18.

The spokesman said the wounded soldier was taken to the squalid, bomb-damaged Digfir Hospital by staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross and his condition was stable.

The wounded man was the first U.N. peacekeeper to be treated in one of the Somali hospitals, which overflow with gunshot victims, rather than a U.N. hospital. It was not clear why he was sent to one of two U.N. facilities.

Political analysts predicted the country would fall back into lawlessness after Western forces pulled out and the mandate of the remaining Asian and African U.N. force was cut back to escorting relief convoys rather than restoring order.

Promises by Somali factions to attend peace talks to set up a new government have come to nothing.

Dozens of U.N. and American soldiers have died in Somalia since the first U.S. Marines hit the beaches of Mogadishu in December, 1992, aiming to end famine and chaos.

The last U.S. Marines left Mogadishu on March 26 this year.

The latest violence comes a day ahead of an expected vote by the U.N. Security Council on sending thousands of fresh peacekeepers to Rwanda.

The ill-fated Somalia mission has been cited by officials who urge the United Nations to plan its operation in Rwanda more carefully than it did on the streets of Mogadishu.

Charles heals wounds of history in Russia

ST PETERSBURG (R) — Britain's prince Charles began a visit Monday to Russia's majestic second city St Petersburg, the birthplace of the revolution that swept his distant Romanov relations from the throne.

The heir to Queen Elizabeth's crown flew into St Petersburg by private royal jet for a four-day tour of the former seat of Tsarist power and cradle of the 1917 uprising which gave birth to the Soviet state.

The trip is the first by a top-ranking British royal since the Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family, dynastic cousins of Britain's house of Windsor, were executed by Bolshevik forces in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution.

No British monarch or heir to the throne visited Russia in an official capacity during the Soviet era, reflecting cold war tensions and lingering bitterness over the bloody fate of the Romanov rulers.

The prince was welcomed at

St Petersburg Airport by Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, who had invited a royal visit as a spur to foreign investment in the shabby but still impressive city of wide avenues and Baroque architecture.

The king-in-waiting trip officially lays to rest the ghosts of the past and paves the way for a full state visit by Queen Elizabeth later in the year which is set to crown the new-found comradeship between the old cold war adversaries.

Police: S. African neo-Nazis planned big blast

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A police colonel told a court Monday that white neo-Nazis planned to plant a huge bomb at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport on the day Nelson Mandela was inaugurated South Africa's first black president.

"We received information that they would plant a time-bomb of between three to five tonnes at Jan Smuts" on May 10, Colonel Cornelius Van Wyk told a magistrates court bail hearing for 3 detained pro-apartheid extremists.

Police arrested 34 members of the white supremacist Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) in connection with bombings in and around Johannesburg that killed 21 people and wounded nearly 200 in the run-up to historic all-race elections.

The airport, South Africa's largest, was hit by a car bomb on April 27, the second day of a four-day poll that gave Mr. Mandela and his African National Congress a sweeping victory.

Sixteen people were wounded in the explosion outside the departures hall.

Col. Van Wyk said police were searching for another 21 bombing suspects. A reward of 50,000 rand (\$13,600) was offered for information leading to the arrest of each one.

Thirty-three detainees applied for bail Monday and the hearing was continuing. The other detainees is a minor and appears separately.

Col. Van Wyk said another 21 rightists has fled from a shooting range at Rustenburg, about 100 kilometres north-west of Johannesburg, which police raided on April 27 after being tipped that the bombers had gathered there.

"We are searching for at least 21 people in connection with the bombings, 10 who fled the scene of the raid and possibly another 11 identified by clothing and baggage we found on the scene," the colonel said.

Police released the names, photographs and identity numbers of eight of the suspects and appealed for public help in capturing them.

Col. Van Wyk said police had recovered at least 60 kilograms of explosives, revolvers and pistols, false registra-

tions and parachutes during the swoop on the shooting range.

He said police had acted on information after finding similarities in bombings between April 24 and 27 in Johannesburg and suburban Germiston.

"We believe the bombings were aimed at disrupting the election, especially considering the time and places the explosions took place. The bombings and a tremendous impact on South Africa..." Col. Van Wyk said.

He said police had acted on information that a group of people, most of them members of the AWB's elite Ystergarde — Iron Guard bodyguards for AWB leader Eugene Terre Blanche — had gathered at a game farm in the western Transvaal.

They had then moved on to the shooting range in Rustenburg in convoys, moving along dirt roads, the colonel said.

He estimated the first bomb on Bree Street in central Johannesburg, which killed nine people and wounded 92, caused 50 million rand (\$14 million) in damage.

COLUMN

Hillary Clinton moved by Mandela inaugural

WASHINGTON (R) — First lady Hillary Clinton, clearly moved by the inauguration of South African President Nelson Mandela, told graduates at the University of Illinois Sunday the highlight came when Mr. Mandela revealed he had invited three of his former jailers to the ceremony. Mrs. Clinton spoke emotionally of the changes that brought to power South Africa's first black leader, calling last week's inaugural "an incredibly moving and historical experience."

"Despite enormous differences in a far away land torn by racial strife and hatred and violence that we cannot even imagine, (they) joined together in a vision of a new South Africa," she said. "But the highlight of the entire inaugural came, for me, later at a lunch, where President Mandela stood and talked about how he had invited to his inaugural ceremony three of his former jailers."

Mrs. Clinton said in a commencement speech. She told the graduates that Mr. Mandela, who spent 27 years as a political prisoner, had been in jail longer than many of them had lived. "And yet, because he was a man who understood that real change must come from within... he learned to love his jailers and they, in turn learned to love him. They broke through the barriers that divide us to see each other in their full humanity," she said.

Mrs. Clinton confessed that as she sat listening she wondered whether she would have "the depth and forgiveness and love to reach out to those who oppose and attack me or my husband." Mrs. Clinton was a member of the U.S. delegation, led by Vice President Al Gore, that attended Mr. Mandela's inauguration last Tuesday.

She said Mrs. Clinton confessed that as she sat listening she wondered whether she would have "the depth and forgiveness and love to reach out to those who oppose and attack me or my husband."

Mrs. Clinton was a member of the U.S. delegation, led by Vice President Al Gore, that attended Mr. Mandela's inauguration last Tuesday.

U.S. handgun crimes hit all time record

WASHINGTON (R) — Violent crimes committed nationwide with handguns set a record in 1992, soaring almost 50 per cent from the annual average the previous five years, the Justice Department said Sunday.

The department's Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that handguns had been used in 931,000 murders, rapes, robberies and assaults in 1992, up from the annual average of 667,000 from 1987 to 1991.

Handgun crimes accounted for an increased percentage — now about 13 per cent — of all violent crimes, it said. The release of the statistics came as the Clinton administration and Congress consider new ways to restrict guns to cut down on rampant inner-city violence.

President Bill Clinton already signed into law the so-called Brady Bill requiring a five-day waiting period for the purchase of handguns and has vigorously supported legislation banning a number of assault weapons.

Attorney General Janet Reno has advocated gun licensing, and is considering whether to propose such a system nationwide. The report by the department's information-gathering unit said the number of murders with a handgun totalled 13,200 in 1992, a 24 per cent jump from the five-year average. The murder numbers were based on FBI crime statistics. The other statistics, from a nationwide crime victims' survey, also showed dramatic increases for robberies and assaults involving a handgun.

The report by the department's information-gathering unit said the number of murders with a handgun totalled 13,200 in 1992, a 24 per cent jump from the five-year average. The murder numbers were based on FBI crime statistics. The other statistics, from a nationwide crime victims' survey, also showed dramatic increases for robberies and assaults involving a handgun.

The report by the department's information-gathering unit said the number of murders with a handgun totalled 13,200 in 1992, a 24 per cent jump from the five-year average. The murder numbers were based on FBI crime statistics. The other statistics, from a nationwide crime victims' survey, also showed dramatic increases for robberies and assaults involving a handgun.

Japan deports record number of foreigners

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese authorities last year deported a record 70,404 people, according to an official report released Sunday. Deportations for violating immigration laws rose 3.8 per cent from 1992. It was the first time the number has topped 70,000, said the report by the Justice Ministry which controls immigration offices. Illegal workers accounted for 64,341 of the total, rising 3.5 per cent from the previous year, it said.

Thais topped the list of illegal workers, accounting for 20 per cent, followed by Malaysians with 19 per cent, South Koreans with 18 per cent, the report said. The ministry said that the number of foreigners who were denied entry into Japan last year went down 26.4 per cent from 1992 to 18,960.